

AND

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Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning



Scene magazine

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Deserter spent 40 years in N. Korea, less than a month behind bars

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A little goes a long way ...

Kim's father was an American soldier whose name Kang cannot recall. Kang struggles to earn an income collecting recyclables and cleaning homes near her Dongdaemum, South Korea, apartment, and she receives additional support from Pearl S. Buck International, a group that helps Amerasian children worldwide.



TERI WEAVER
Stars and Stripes

... to help Amerasians Page 3

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STARS & STRIPES
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Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Slain deer hunters: Mourners gathered at a funeral parlor on Thanksgiving Day to remember one of six deer hunters killed in a shooting in Wisconsin's northwoods last weekend. Friends and hunting buddies described 28-year-old Mark Roidt as a friendly, outgoing man, a jack-of-all-trades in carpentry and construction work who loved hunting, motorcycling and other motorsports.

"He's just a warm-hearted, good-spirited guy," said Sarah O'Donnell, who knew Roidt for 12 years.

It was the first visitation to be held for a victim of Sunday's shooting. Roidt's funeral was scheduled for Friday, with funerals for the others to be held Saturday or next week. Authorities said the six were killed and two others wounded after a confrontation with a hunter from Minnesota who was trespassing on private land. Chai Vang, 36, remains held on \$2.5 million bail pending formal charges.

Scott Peterson trial: Rejected by the trial judge and an appeals court, Scott Peterson's lawyer asked the California Supreme Court on Wednesday for a new jury and a change of venue for the trial's penalty phase.

Attorney Mark Geragos filed the motion a day after a state appeals court ruled Peterson's sentencing will be decided by the same jury that convicted him of murder Nov. 12. The three-judge panel of the 1st District Court of Appeals denied the petition just hours after Geragos filed it.

After a five-month trial, Peterson, 32, was convicted of one count of first-degree murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci, and one count of second-degree murder for the death of her fetus. The penalty phase is scheduled to begin in Redwood City on Tuesday.



Peterson

Business

W.R. Grace & Co. woes: W.R. Grace & Co. said Friday it is likely to be indicted in the first quarter of 2005 by a federal grand jury in Montana if it cannot reach a settlement with prosecutors over possible violations of federal environmental laws.

In a Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the chemical



Holiday visit: Afghan President Hamid Karzai, right, meets with the head of U.S. Central Command, Gen. John Abizaid, in the presidential palace in Kabul on Friday. Abizaid, who commands American forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan, met with Karzai after visiting troops for Thanksgiving.

company said it had received a letter from the U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana on Oct. 29 informing the company of the investigation, which relates to the company's former vermiculite mining and processing activities in Libby, Mont.

World

Mexico mob killing: Investigators have identified at least six people suspected of burning alive two federal agents they believed were kidnappers, federal authorities said Thursday.

The six were among 31 people captured during a massive raid on San Juan Ixcapopan, a town on outskirts of Mexico City where dozens of locals on Tuesday severely beat three plainclothes federal agents, then killed two by throwing paint thinner on them and setting them ablaze, said Deputy Attorney General Gilberto Higueria.

Gitmo military tribunals: An alleged high-ranking official of the ousted Taliban regime was among three prisoners who appeared Wednesday before U.S. military review tribunals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The 46-year-old former Taliban official had a Kalashnikov rifle when captured and has been held at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo for about a year, said Navy Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status

Review Tribunals.

Ross declined to say what position the prisoner held in the Taliban government or if he ever engaged in combat.

Six-way nuclear talks: Representatives of six nations trying to end a dispute over North Korea's nuclear weapons development will hold informal talks in Beijing in mid-December, a news report said Friday.

Chief delegates of the six nations would meet for two or three days between Dec. 15 and Dec. 23, said South Korea's KBS-TV, quoting a senior South Korean government official.

KBS quoted the official as indicating that North Korea agreed to join the discussions aimed at setting the date and other terms for reopening official talks between the Koreans, China, Japan, Russia and the United States.

Foreign Ministry officials could not confirm the report.

Al-Qaida members released: Yemen authorities have released 113 militants belonging to the al-Qaida network — including at least five once accused of involvement in the deadly bombing of the USS Cole — after they recanted their extremist views, security officials said Thursday.

The militants once accused in the USS Cole bombing were later cleared.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL
expires 12/4/04

It's business as usual for Pacific Boy Scouts

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

Some Boy Scouts of America troops in the Pacific are changing their charters after the Pentagon ordered military bases worldwide to not directly sponsor troops.

The Pentagon's position is part of a settlement announced Nov. 15 to a series of legal challenges over the government's relationship with the Boy Scouts. The American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and other civil liberties advocates say the organization should not receive government sponsorship because membership requires an oath of duty to God.

The Pentagon agreed to send a message to facilities warning them not to sponsor Boy Scout troops. The settlement has no impact on the Girl Scouts of the USA.

"Only a few troops" are sponsored by bases in the Far East, and they are changing their charters to reflect private sponsorship, said Guy Eichsteadt, executive director of the Far East Council headquartered in Camp Zama. The Far East Council is the umbrella organization for the Boy

Scouts of America at U.S. military bases and expatriate troops in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand.

"We've known about this since being notified of the possibility last spring. Our volunteer leaders were notified and an action plan distributed," he said. He stressed the Scouts will continue to offer all the same services and programs.

He said most troops are typically "sponsored by private organizations," such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Navy Wardroom Association, Navy League and others.

A memo from John M. Molina, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy, explained the settlement. He stated the agreement "will not affect any currently appropriately authorized DOD support to Boy Scouts activities ... or preclude Boy Scout activities on DOD installations."

"It will, however, require each local installation to review the written documents on file pertaining to Boy Scout organizations authorized to operate on the installation ... to ensure that the written

agreements indicate nothing more on the part of DOD than permission to operate on the facility," Molina stated.

The rule does not prevent servicemembers volunteering to lead Boy Scout troops, and troops can hold meetings at military bases where civilian organizations are allowed, Eichsteadt said.

Troop 81 at the Army's Camp Walker in Taegu, South Korea, is switching its chartered organization from a military unit to a private organization, said the troop's scoutmaster, Lt. Col. Brett Weigle.

The troop, with 11 members, holds its meetings in a trailer in Camp Walker's life support area and is allowed to store gear on post, Weigle said. The troop's chartered organization is the Army's 20th Area Support Group, headquartered at nearby Camp Henry.

"We are in the process of changing what's called our 'chartered organization' from the 20th Area Support Group to one of a number of volunteer organizations, and we're contacting several that reside off-post here," including

the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Weigle said.

At Misawa Air Base in northern Japan, officials say the recent decision won't have much of an impact on the 150 or so Scouts on the base and their activities.

Darrin Nicholson, lead volunteer at Misawa and the Misawa Zone commissioner, said there are five Boy Scouts of America units at Misawa. "Three of our units have military organizations as our sponsors. We have to switch those immediately, which we're already in the process of doing," he said.

Lt. Col. Eric Bee, 35th Fighter Wing staff judge advocate, said Boy Scouts of America requires a troop to be sponsored in its charter. The rationale "is to tie the troop to the community and give the troops some support," he said.

"Those charters are being reworked as we speak," Bee said. "Within days, they should be sponsored by somebody else."

On Okinawa, the new direction won't be a problem, according to Jay Farmer, the Great Okinawa District chairman. He said of the 23 groups on the island — 10 Cub Scout packs, nine Boy Scout

troops and four Venturer crews — only three were chartered by military units.

Farmer said his district knew the new regulation was coming, so troops "took care of it before word came down from the Pentagon," finding new charters this summer.

In South Korea, none of the troops or Cub Scout packs are directly sponsored by the military, said Peter Vieira, the executive director of the Boy Scouts organization in South Korea. "We got everybody and their brother sponsoring us," he said last week. "But not the military."

On Guam, officials from Andersen Air Force Base and Guam Naval Base were unsure of the specific impact on Boy Scouts, but said they would comply with the DOD direction.

"The decision does not prohibit Boy Scout units from meeting on military installations," a Guam Navy official stated in an e-mail, "nor does it prohibit military personnel from being active in a Boy Scout unit."

Jennifer L. Swan, Fred Zimmerman, Teri Weaver, Franklin Fisher and Huang Hae-rym contributed to this report. E-mail Greg Tyler at: greg@stripes.osd.mil

Charity struggles to meet mission to aid Amerasians

Foundation seeks support in effort to help children left behind by Americans

BY TERI WEAVER

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — The third week in November was typical for Yi Kyung-hyun, the man who runs the Pearl S. Buck International office in South Korea.

One day he took four pounds of rice and 100,000 won (about \$100) to a mother and son in Incheon. Another day, he took a call from a mother in Ulsan who has a child with cerebral palsy and who needed help paying monthly bills. He only could afford to send 100,000 won toward her utility bills.

He also took a reporter to meet Kim Paul, a 17-year-old living with his grandmother, Kang Il-soon, in Dongaemum. "She feels bad to be a burden to Pearl Buck," Yi said of Kang as they sat on a bedroom floor in her four-room apartment. "Her only wish is to see Paul grow up good."

Pearl S. Buck International helps struggling children worldwide get more food, better health care and a chance at a stable education. The group was named after Buck, the Nobel Prize in literature winner who grew up in China and created the foundation in the mid-1960s to help Asian children who were not eligible for adoption.

Yi's office is struggling to meet its mission to help Amerasians — children whose mothers are Korean and whose fathers are either American servicemen or other foreign workers who once passed through



PHOTOS BY TERI WEAVER/Stars and Stripes

Left: Kim Paul, 17, is an Amerasian who receives help from the Pearl S. Buck International office in Seoul. His mother left him when he was 1 month old, and his father was an American soldier whose English name has been long forgotten. Kim's computer was donated by his school. Right: Kang Il-soon, 69, has managed to save about \$5,000 for Kim, her grandson, with the hopes he can go to college. Kang earns the family's income by collecting recycling and cleaning houses close to her Dongdaemum, South Korea, apartment.

South Korea. The mothers are almost always poor and poorly educated, Yi said. "Some cannot even write their name," he said. "They have no skills. They all have children."

The fathers are almost always unknown, he said.

Seventeen-year-old Kim, a high school junior, doesn't know his father's name.

The teen doesn't like to be interviewed

or to have his picture taken. He'd rather be sending instant messages to friends and strangers in online chat rooms about music and break dancing. He'd rather be at his taekwon do studio, where he's earned his third belt and sometimes teaches when the instructor is on vacation.

But Kim's grandmother wanted to talk about how Yi and the Pearl S. Buck Foundation have helped her family. She wanted

to help Yi to solicit more support for families like hers from U.S. military members and anyone else willing to sponsor a child like Kim for about \$25 a month.

The South Korean government once provided money toward the group's mission. But a 1998 policy change put that money on a four-year countdown that since has run out, Yi said.

Now, Yi depends on individual donations, called sponsorships, and group donations of rice, money, clothes and school uniforms from U.S. military groups.

"We have 94 sponsors," Yi said a couple of weeks ago. "We have 206 children."

The sponsorships don't go directly to the families, but instead help pay to keep Yi's office open so that he can organize larger fund-raising campaigns, dole out 100,000-won emergency vouchers and, on very good days, coordinate permanent adoptions.

A few U.S. military groups help Yi and the families each year. Volunteers at Osan Air Base throw an annual Christmas party that provides each child with three presents and gives them a chance to pick out anything they want from racks of thrift clothing.

The 524th Military Intelligence Battalion in Seoul directs an annual rice drive to coincide with Chusok, Korea's harvest holiday. This year the soldiers collected 16,000 pounds of rice, said Chaplain Earl Vanderhoff, who helps run the drive.

"The battalion has really taken these children under their wing," he said. "It's a tragedy. These kids are growing up without fathers."

The American Women's Club at Yongsan Garrison and the American Forces Spouse Club both have donated money for school uniforms, Yi said.

SEE CHARITY ON PAGE 4

Charity: Foundation reaching out to Amerasians

CHARITY, FROM PAGE 3

But other help from servicemembers has stopped, he added. It's hard to keep contacts with the U.S. military as servicemembers leave and incoming soldiers and airmen don't have immediate ties with the group. Yi, who runs his office with one other employee, admits that he has a hard time keeping up with the changing faces and names.

Soldiers at Camp Casey once routinely collected \$5,000 to \$6,000 yearly. "They all stopped now," Yi said. "I think it's our fault."

In late October, Yi sent a letter to Col. Timothy K. McNulty, the commander for Area II support activity. McNulty's office confirmed the letter was received but did not say what response the colonel had.

"We are barely keeping our office," Yi said. "We need to help these children."

Yi has known Kim and his grandmother for 14 years. Kim's mother left home when he was 1 month old, and no one knows whether she's alive. Kang said she once was told the name of Kim's father, but she didn't have a written version and long has for-

gotten the English-sounding syllable.

Nearly all the furniture and clothes in Kang's apartment were donated. The

Kim's tuition

Buck

Kang, 69, supports her family by collecting recyclables and cleaning homes.

"Grandmother works cleaning houses in the neighborhood," Yi said outside the home, pointing to her rickshaw-style cleaning cart. "She can make about \$20 or \$30 a day."

The family is Class I, a South Korean welfare classification that qualifies them for free medical

care and a small monthly stipend. Kim must pay a school administrative fee of about 80,000 won (about \$80) quarterly. His uniform was donated by the spouse's club, a savings of about 120,000 won (about \$120) for a summer outfit and 150,000 won (about \$150) for a winter one.

His bus fare to school still costs about 50,000 won (about \$50) monthly.

When Kim graduates from high school, the Class I subsidy will cease, Yi said.

Kang has managed to keep a savings account for her grandson's future. By his graduation, she expects to have saved 5 mil-

lion won (about \$5,000). That would pay for about one semester of college.

"Paul is quite exceptional," Yi said. On average, the dropout rate is 17 percent for Amerasian students who reach middle school, he says. It's then, Yi says, that teasing about racial differences becomes intense.

Kim was attacked in middle school, he said, where his darker face was the only different one from all his classmates. But the fight only spurred him to continue his tae kwon do lessons.

"He is skinny on the outside, but strong on the inside," Kang said through an interpreter of her gangly but growing grandson.

Yi has stories of other children, besides Kim, that make him smile.

On a Sunday night about a month ago, Yi watched as a Korean couple went home with their newly adopted son, an 1-year-old Amerasian boy. The husband and wife are both doctors, and they've offered to send the boy to medical school if he wants. For now, they're signing him up for piano lessons.

To learn more about Pearl S. Buck International, go to www.pearlsbuck.or.kr.

Wang Hae-rym contributed to this article.
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Green Zone attack kills 4 British workers

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A mortar attack killed four employees of a British security firm and wounded at least 12 in Baghdad's Green Zone, a fortified area that houses the U.S. and Iraqi leadership, the company and British officials said Friday.

Insurgents in Fallujah ambushed U.S. troops as they entered a home during house-to-house searches in the former rebel bastion, killing two Marines and wounding three others, the U.S. military said Friday.

In the northern city of Mosul, 21 bodies have been found in the past two days in and around the area shaken by an insurgent uprising, the U.S. military said Friday. In all, 41 corpses have been discovered in the past week.

Britain's Foreign Office said the British security workers for London-based Global Risk Strategies killed in Baghdad were former Gurkhas, renowned Nepalese soldiers.

"The mortar landed in their camp," said a Foreign Office official on condition of anonymity Tim J. O'Brien, spokesman for Global Risk Strategies, said the attack was on Thursday, when multiple explosions were heard and black smoke was seen rising from the fortified zone on the western bank of the Tigris River.

"There was an incident yesterday. We lost four people and had 12 to 15 who were injured," he said. "We can't confirm what we thought actually was until we go through internal investigations."

O'Brien declined to identify the victims.

In Fallujah, Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the Marines ambushed Thursday by insurgents when searching a home responded with gunfire, killing three rebels hiding inside.

U.S. troops are conducting clearing operations after a massive weeklong U.S.-led assault that began Nov. 8. "We will continue to clear out houses till every one of us secure. We've taken more and more of their safe houses. They're running out of places to hide," he said.

Sattler vowed the city 40 miles west of Baghdad will be safe in time for next January's nationwide elections.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, was the site of a mass insurgent up-

rising in apparent support of Fallujah guerrillas after the assault on that rebel stronghold. U.S. and Iraqi forces were sent in to retake parts of the city but insurgents have managed to hit back.

"It's a continued campaign of threats, intimidation and murder by insurgents to spread fear into the public. Their campaign has been directed at what appears to be Iraqi security forces," said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, a spokesman with Task Force Olympia.

Eleven of the 41 bodies found around Mosul have been identified as members of the Iraqi security forces. The others have not been identified. Six were found Friday and 15 were discovered the day before, U.S. officials said.

Twenty other bodies have been found in Mosul since Nov. 18. At least 10 of the bodies — nine of them shot execution-style — belonged to the Iraqi regular army, based at the al-Kisik military base about 31 miles west of Mosul, near Tal Afar. Four of the bodies were decapitated.

"I cannot speak to the motive or the level of detail and planning. I just know that since the uprising... there's been accelerated and very deliberate attacks on Iraqi security forces," Hastings said.

U.S. and Iraqi troops were hit by mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire as they were retrieving two of the bodies found Thursday, according to Lt. Col. Eric Kurilla of the Army's 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment.

The U.S. military spotted at least one team of insurgents firing at them. One Iraqi National Guardsman suffered minor injuries, according to Kurilla.

Iraqi security forces in Mosul arrested four people Thursday night accused of providing money and information to insurgents, officials said Friday.

Maj. Gen. Rashid Felehi, commander of a special Interior Ministry force sent from Baghdad, said Iraqi forces said three are accused of financing terror operations and the fourth of providing insurgents with information.

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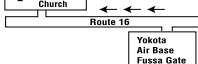
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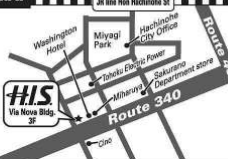
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MAP



Big bonuses drawing more Marine re-ups

By TONY PERRY

Los Angeles Times

SAN DIEGO — With the prospect of continued fighting in Iraq, the Marine Corps is offering bonuses as much as \$30,000 — in some cases, tax-free — to persuade enlisted personnel with combat experience and training to re-enlist.

The plan is working, officials said. Fewer than two months into the fiscal year, Marine re-enlistment rates in several key specialties are running 10 percent to 30 percent ahead of last year.

Officials are confident that, by midyear, they will have reached their target for encouraging re-enlistment among riflemen, the "grunts" who are key to the Marines' ability to mount offensives against insurgent strongholds such as Fallujah, Iraq.

In most cases, the young Marines are agreeing to stay in their current jobs for four years. In others, they are allowed to transfer into jobs that the brass considers equally vital: recruiters, embassy guards and boot camp drill instructors.

"No amount of money is too

much to retain combat experience in the corps, rather than starting over," said Maj. Mark Menotti, assistant head of enlisted retention for the Marine Corps.

Giving bonuses to encourage Marines to re-enlist is not a new program. But this year's bonus schedule marks the first time that "combat arms" specialties have received the largest of the bonuses.

A year ago, the top bonus for a grunt was about \$7,000.

Along with riflemen, machine-gunners, and mortar-men, specialties also receiving sizable bonuses are those critical to suc-

cess in Iraq — including intelligence officers and Arabic linguists.

Lance Cpl. Matthew Jee, 21, of Borrego Springs, Calif., received a bonus of \$19,000 to re-enlist for four years. An assault-man with expertise in firing the Javelin rocket, he plans to shift to the intelligence field.

"They need a grunt's view of what kind of intelligence you need when you're out there on the street," Jee said at Camp Pendleton, where he recently returned after seven months in Iraq.

Sgt. Joey W. McBroom, 30, of

Lafayette, Tenn., a rifleman, said that he had planned to re-enlist even without the bonus, but that the \$28,039 "helped my wife to agree to my re-enlisting."

In an e-mail from Iraq, McBroom said he plans to put 40 percent of the bonus in a mutual fund, 30 percent in an account for his children's college, 15 percent in savings and the remaining 15 percent for "a nice wedding ring for the wife, finally."

The Marine Corps has earmarked \$52 million in bonuses for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1, up from \$51 million in 2004.



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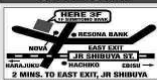
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Boost in benefits caps fruitful year

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

A lame-duck and bitterly divided Congress found common ground in mid-November to pass three bills that will raise veterans' benefits, improve pay for Department of Veterans Affairs doctors and strengthen veterans' legal rights.

The bills cap another year of solid pay gains and benefit gains for a military community that lawmakers recognize is under enormous strain.

Besides passing the veterans bills, a worried Congress this year began to reverse some of the post-Cold War drawdown, voting to raise active Army forces by 20,000 and Marines by 3,000. Top pay initiatives this year include a 3.5 percent raise and the last of a series of above-average increases in Basic Allowance for Housing, both to occur in January.

With 182,000 Reserve and Guard members still mobilized, and many serving yearlong combat tours, Congress is anxious to improve benefits and avoid a recruiting and retention crisis. But lawmakers also began to heed Bush administration warnings about cost and to link new benefits to continued service.

Reservists, for example, will see better education benefits but only if they were mobilized for at least 90 days. By May, drilling reservists will be able to buy Tri-care Standard coverage at a reasonable rate. But the offer is open only to those who were mobilized. They are entitled to a year's coverage for every 90 days of activated service.

Military retirees and survivors scored a huge victory when Congress voted to phase out by April 2008 a sharp drop in Survivor Benefit Plan payments that occurs at age 62. All current and future participants stand to gain, but the first group to see higher payments, by October, will be 270,000 SBP recipients already 62 or older.

The other big winners from the legislation year are 15,000 retirees with 20 or more years of service and disability ratings of 100 percent. On Jan. 1, they will see their military retired pay fully restored. Congress voted to accelerate for this group a planned

10-year phase-out of the ban on "concurrent receipt" of both military retirement and disability pay.

Tops among the three new veterans bills passed and sent to the White House for signature is the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (S 2486). This bill will:

- open the active-duty Montgomery GI Bill to drilling reservists if they complete two consecutive years of active-duty service (they will have a year after deactivation to pay the required \$1,200 "buy-in" contribution);
- increase by \$100 a month GI Bill payments for apprenticeship or on-the-job training;
- increase to \$533,700 the maximum home loan amount allowed under the VA loan guaranty program;

- provide an additional \$250 a month in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, for two years, to surviving spouses who have children under age 18 (DIC is paid when a servicemember dies on active duty or a veteran dies from a service-connected disability);
- restart VA guarantees for adjustable-rate mortgages, though 2008 Congress had allowed this authority to expire in 1995 because VA data showed ARM loans carry a 50 percent higher risk of default.

- increase from 18 months to 24 months the period that an employer must make available company health benefits to mobilized reservists;
- clarify other legal protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, including that spouses too can terminate leases on apartments or cars, without financial penalty, when the member deploys.

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N. Korea reactor project suspended again

BY PETER JAMES SPIELMANN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An international consortium said Friday it has extended for another year a freeze on a project to build two light-water nuclear reactors in North Korea.

The four main partners in the New York-based Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) — the United States, Japan, South Korea and the European Union — had previously suspended the project for a year through Dec. 1, 2004.

The freeze will be extended

until Dec. 1, 2005, the group said in a statement Friday.

Reports from South Korea and Japan in recent months have said the United States sought to kill the program outright, but could not persuade Seoul or Tokyo to adopt that stance.

South Korea and Japan are heavily invested in the \$4.6 billion light-water reactor program, which is about one-third complete.

The light-water reactor projects were started after a 1994 deal with the United States in which North Korea agreed to dis-

mantle its plutonium-producing Russian-model heavy water reactors.

In exchange, the KEDO partners agreed to build two 1,000-megawatt light-water reactors, which do not produce large quantities of weapons-grade plutonium as a byproduct, and to send annual shipments of 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil to help North Korea ease its chronic power shortage.

The U.S.-funded fuel oil deliveries were halted in 2002 after North Korea acknowledged that it also had a secret uranium-en-

richment program that could produce weapons in violation of the 1994 U.S.-North Korea accord and of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which North Korea signed in 1985.

As the crisis escalated, KEDO suspended work on the light-water reactors.

The group will continue to do maintenance work on the site, the group's statement said.

KEDO's decision to keep the program alive is one way to lure North Korea back to the talks, said Robert Gallucci, who helped the United States negotiate the 1994 deal.

"If there was a renewed effort to engage the North Koreans, it would seem only prudent to have as many options available for such engagement as possible," said Gallucci, who is now dean of the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington.

North Korea's weapons capabilities remain a mystery. Some analysts and observers have said the reclusive communist nation has said to eight atomic bombs. North Korea has claimed this year that it had reprocessed plutonium from 8,000 spent fuel rods into weapons.

WTO allows sanctions on U.S. exports

BY JONATHAN FOWLER
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The World Trade Organization gave European nations and other countries the go-ahead Friday to impose punitive duties on U.S. exports ranging from lobsters to trucks because of Washington's failure to repeal a law the trade organization says unlawfully protects the American steel industry.

American officials quickly reassured WTO members that the United States would comply with a WTO ruling declaring the U.S.

law illegal, and that there would be no need for sanctions. But other members of the organization dismissed the assurances and said they would move to begin imposing penalties.

The European Union and other plaintiffs on Friday were given formal WTO authorization to retaliate against the U.S. measure by imposing new duties on a diverse array of American products, including cod, cigarettes and textiles, said Amna C. Mohamed, Kenyan ambassador to the WTO and chairwoman of the organization's dispute settlement

body.

The products, say EU officials, were chosen because they are produced in politically important parts of the United States, and the new duties "could help Congress focus its mind on compliance," said former EU trade spokeswoman Arancha Gonzalez, who stepped down this week.

Among the products to be hit with punitive duties is heavy machinery made by Caterpillar Inc., based in Illinois, the home state of U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, among the most powerful members of Congress.

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WHO: Bird flu may cause pandemic

BY ALISA TANG
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — After almost a year of trying to bring Asia's bird flu under control, World Health Organization experts are now warning the disease is the most likely candidate to cause the world's next pandemic, with the possibility of as many as 75 million deaths.

"I believe we are closer now to a pandemic than at any time in recent years," Shigeru Omi, Western Pacific regional director of WHO, said Friday.

The current outbreak (of avian influenza) in poultry is historically unprecedented in terms of geographical spread and impact," he said. "This virus appears to be not only very resilient, but also extremely versatile."

WHO's global influenza expert, Klaus Stehr, said Thursday that the H5N1 bird flu virus — which has killed 32 people in Thailand and Vietnam and millions of chickens

across Asia this year — "is certainly the most likely one that will cause the next pandemic."

Influenza pandemics historically occur every 20 to 30 years when the genetic makeup of a flu strain changes so dramatically that people have little or no immunity built up from previous flu bouts.

Health officials fear bird flu could combine with a human flu virus, creating a new form that could spread rapidly.

Health ministers from 13 Asian countries pledged at the meeting to intensify their cooperation in an attempt to ward off the possible pandemic and to prepare contingency plans to deal with it.

Omi told the meeting that the region must reduce bird flu's threat to humans by changing farming practices. Hong Kong Health Secretary York Y.N. Chow said his government has set up very strict security in chicken farms to segregate humans and chickens, and minimize contact between wild birds and chickens.

Israelis survey new political landscape

BY DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Even in death, Israel can't let Yasser Arafat go. For four decades it's been a target of their loathing and their jokes — the flamboyant figure in fatigues and a checkered head scarf, the arch-terrorist they blamed for many of their ills.

Though his lips and hands trembled in recent years, many Israelis thought the master survivor would live forever. Now everyone from satirists to the prime minister is struggling to figure out what life will be like without Arafat. They're glad he's gone, yet worried about who might replace him.

Tuvia Tsafir, doyen of Israel's comic impersonators, has decided that even Arafat's death in Paris at age 75 won't force him off the stage: He's creating a sketch in which the Palestinian leader returns from the grave to haunt his contemporaries.

Israelis wonder whether the successor to be picked in a January election will be more interested in striking a deal, or follow Arafat's legacy and fight on.

"The problem is [Arafat's successors] don't have enough power," said 66-year-old Shlomo Ben Haim, having coffee with a friend at a Jerusalem mall.

Even if a partner for negotiations can be found, Israelis lack trust, blaming Arafat for the collapse of 1990s peace deals and ensuing violence.

"The sense is we've been burned once, we're not going to be burned again," said Mark Heller of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. Israelis "will want to wait and see how



AP

In February, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat waved a portrait of imprisoned Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti during a reception at his compound in Ramallah.

Barghouti will seek the Palestinian Authority presidency.

things develop. There's certainly a sense of relief that Arafat is out of the way — but how much of it was Arafat and how much of it was the political culture?"

Palestinians blame Israel for the collapse of negotiations, pointing to the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a prime example of bad faith.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon finds himself in unpredictable territory. Accusing Arafat of fomenting terrorism, Sharon shunned him and plans a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza without negotiating with the Palestinians. That plan stands, Sharon says, regardless of who succeeds Arafat.



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Fighting for justice in Bhopal, India

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN

The Associated Press

BHOPAL, India — It was five minutes past midnight on Dec. 3, 1984, when 40 tons of poisonous gas burst from a storage tank at the Union Carbide pesticide plant here. Silently, it seeped out over the city.

Thousands died, though just how many has never been clear.

Those who survived were condemned to a life of gruesome memories, medical ordeals and an exhaustive fight for justice many believe has been denied by the U.S. chemical giants.

As the 20th anniversary of the tragedy approaches, survivors are gaining ground in their demand for financial and environmental compensation.

But other Bhopalis want to put the tragedy behind them, shed their city's anguished image and reinvent Bhopal as another of India's booming business hubs.

"There's no sense in repeating our history over and over. We just need to catch up with the pace of the world," said Jagmeet Singh,

who works at an outsourcing center in Bhopal, transcribing dictation from American doctors via the Internet.

The capital of Madhya Pradesh state, Bhopal is a microcosm of India today. Many of the city's 1.8 million residents live in slums and earn less than a dollar a day, while middle-class Indians race headlong into a 21st century of unprecedented opportunity.

"Everything you see in India is contained in the Bhopal saga. Essentially, it's the story of survival against all odds," said Satish Nathani, director of the Sanbhavna Trust Clinic, which offers free health care for gas victims.

The Bhopal gas leak was the world's worst industrial disaster.

U.S. chemical company Union Carbide Corp. insists the tragedy was due to sabotage by a disgruntled employee and not shoddy safety standards or faulty plant designs, as claimed by many activists.

Union Carbide — based in Danbury, Conn., and bought by Dow Chemical Co. of Midland, Mich.,

in 2001 — claims 3,800 people were killed.

Indian officials say 10,000 to 12,000 people were killed, while Bhopal activists and health workers say more than 20,000 people have died over the years due to gas-related illnesses, such as lung cancer, kidney failure and liver disease.

Indian officials estimate that nearly 600,000 more have become ill or had babies born with congenital defects over the last 20 years. The pea-green control room at the deserted Union Carbide plant, now managed by the state government, is a testament to neglect. Plump sacks of chemicals still sit in the warehouse.

Union Carbide, in a statement sent to The Associated Press, said it spent more than \$2 million to clean up the plant from 1985 to 1994, when it sold its stake in Union Carbide India Ltd. (UCIL) and the local company was then renamed as Eveready Industries.

"The single most important remediation activity was completed in 1985 by UCIL — the transformation and removal of tens of

thousands of pounds of methyl isocyanate (MIC) from the plant," Tom Sprick, a Union Carbide spokesman, said in the statement.

The state government took over legal responsibility of the site in 1998, but it has done little to remove the debris and sacks of chemicals. Greenpeace estimates it would cost at least \$30 million to clean up the plant and the groundwater and soil that it claims are laced with carcinogens.

Union Carbide says state studies indicated in 1998 that the groundwater around the plant was free of toxins and that any water contamination was due to improper drainage and other pollution, not Union Carbide chemicals.

The Bhopal Memorial Hospital for gas victims — funded in part by a trust Union Carbide created — believes 500,000 people still suffer from gas-related illnesses and have traces of the toxic methyl isocyanate gas in their bloodstreams.

Women's menstrual cycles are irregular and some children are

still born with deformities or congenital diseases. According to a study published last year in the Journal of the American Medical Association, some boys born to those women have smaller heads.

Dow maintains the legal case was resolved in 1989, when Union Carbide settled with the Indian government for \$470 million. Though the 1989 deal dropped all charges against the company and then-chairman Warren Anderson, the Indian Supreme Court reinstated manslaughter charges against him in 1991.

In July, the U.S. state department rejected India's extradition request on technical grounds.

Union Carbide reasoned that, with compounded interest over 20 years, the settlement would eventually provide some \$1 billion in compensation. India's Supreme Court last month ordered the final compensation settlement to be given to 572,000 affected Bhopalis by the end of the year.

Only part of the \$470 million has been disbursed to the victims as bureaucrats bicker over who is due and exactly how much.



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IN THE STATES

Bush sticks close to home for Thanksgiving

President calls troops from his Texas ranch

BY SCOTT LINDLAU

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush spent a down-to-earth Thanksgiving Day at his ranch eating leftovers and riding his mountain bike — a world away from Baghdad, his secret destination a year ago.

Bush also called members of the military stationed around the world, most of them deployed to the Middle East.

It was a dual celebration: His twin daughters, Jenna and Bar-

bara, marked their 23rd birthdays on the family's ranch. Also at the home were Laura Bush and her mother, Jenna Welch, and the president's parents, former President Bush and Barbara Bush.

The family worked on leftovers from Wednesday's luncheon meeting with Spain's King Carlos and Queen Sofia. That meal had a Thanksgiving theme, with free-range turkey and gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, bass caught at the ranch, stuffing, pan-roasted vegetables, pecan and pumpkin pies with ice cream. There was cake Thursday for the twins' birthdays.

Bush also rode his bicycle on the trails at the 1,600-acre ranch, and chopped cedar, White House spokeswoman Claire Buchanan said.

In the morning, the president called 10 members of the military representing all five branches of the service. "As the men and women of America's armed forces are sacrificing for the liberties we all enjoy, the president wanted to express his gratitude for their service and sacrifice, and to wish them a happy Thanksgiving," Buchanan said.

Last Thanksgiving, Bush slipped away from the ranch to visit troops in Baghdad, leaving his family and most of his usual entourage behind.



President Bush phones U.S. troops from his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

New homeland security advertising campaign hits home

The Baltimore Sun

A little girl with big brown eyes sits at the kitchen table eating cereal. Milk dribbling down her chin, she asks innocently, "So, Mom, what if something happened? Should I stay where I am and wait for you or go to Grandma's house since it's closest? Is there a place we all meet? What should I do?"

The ad, soon to appear on television, is part of a U.S. Department of Homeland Security

campaign to encourage families to develop plans in case of a terrorist attack.

The attention-grabbing campaign, unveiled this week, uses sweet young children and haunting music to strike an emotional chord — but perhaps an overly dark one, some fear.

"I'm concerned that it will lead to a bogeyman mentality," said Ned Gaylin, professor emeritus of family studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. "We

talk to kids about not talking to strangers. We don't tell them they could rape you.

"You want to give kids the truth. You don't necessarily want to give them the whole truth."

Previous public service campaigns by the Homeland Security Department featured Secretary Tom Ridge talking about being prepared — hardly gripping television.

Hoping to draw more notice, the depart-

ment enlisted BBDO Worldwide — known for such touching campaigns as GE's "We Bring Good Things to Life" — to create a new series of ads.

One is called "Family." It shows two young boys and a girl, apparently siblings, watching television in a dark room, the light from the TV flickering on their faces. "How do we keep in touch with each other if the phones don't work?" asks one boy. An announcer urges the viewer to go to www.ready.gov for more information.

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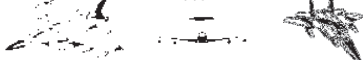
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Americans hit shopping malls

The Associated Press

Retailers opened their doors before the sun rose Friday, the official start of the holiday shopping season, tempting early risers with specials on a variety of items including flat-screen TVs and toys.

Retailers are keeping their fingers crossed that, in an improving though still challenging economy, the crowds will keep coming throughout the next month.

By the time Wal-Mart's store in a Buffalo, N.Y., suburb of Hamburg opened its doors at 6 a.m., 1,000 people had formed a line that spanned the entire store front, despite temperatures of 31 degrees.

"It's our tradition," said Ruth Pompee, of Lackawanna, N.Y., who was up at 3 a.m. and in line by 4:30 a.m. with her 11-year-old niece Shelby Strack.

Many of the early bird specials on hot items were in short supply, however. At another Wal-Mart store in Alpharetta, Ga., just north of Atlanta, a supply of discounted Video Now personal video players sold out in just 12 minutes.

That's why many shoppers mapped out a strategy to get the most coveted bargains.

"The deals are better this early in the morning," said Karen Dawkins, from Cayce, S.C., who was at a Toys "R" Us store in Columbia, S.C., and was almost done with her buying shortly after 6 a.m. "I have my mother at Circuit City and my sister at Target ... so we have people stationed at other stores."

She added, "We all got together after Thanksgiving dinner and got the ads and made a list."

Debbie Redmon of Thayer, Mo., set her alarm for 3:20 a.m. but woke up at 3 a.m., ready to take advantage of bargain shopping in Little Rock, Ark.

"We'll finish up all our shopping today," she said. "Then I collapse tomorrow."

Crystal Rhodes of Wake Forest, N.C., says it's her second or third time taking advantage of the early opening for the after-Thanksgiving sales. The day after Thanksgiving is known as "Black Friday" in the retailing business because the surge of shoppers has been known to push stores into profitability for the year.

"Since I had to go to work today, I figured I'd come in here before I go to work," she added. "So I've got until 7 o'clock to find a deal. After that, I'm out of here. I've got to be at work by 8 o'clock."



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Many toots pills for middle-age maladies

Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals' 'faux' drugs spawn profits, lawsuits

BY MATT CRENSON
The Associated Press

Just three years since an Ohio salesman started selling penis enlargement pills out of a spare room in his house, his company is raking in more than \$200 million a year on unproven palliatives for virtually every malady of the middle-aged middle class.

There's Enzyte, his original product for "natural male enhancement," and Avtamil, its female equivalent. Dromias is for insomnia, Altovis for fatigue. Numovil fights memory loss and Rorisen, deteriorating vision. Rovicid is supposed to lower your cholesterol.

Is there a diet pill? Don't be silly.

In the early days, Steven Warshak pitched his penis pills in cheap advertisements at the back of men's magazines. Now, despite being the defendant in a class-action lawsuit and the target of more than 3,000 complaints to the Better Business Bureau, the company he created has become a thriving phone-order business with an ambitious national advertising and marketing campaign similar to the ones prescription drug manufacturers use to sell their remedies.

"Our ultimate goal is to be the nutraceutical Pfizer, to provide the best dietary supplements and vitamins and minerals and all the naturals that consumers want," Warshak said in a recent interview.

The history of Warshak's company, Cincinnati-based Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals, demonstrates just how easy it has become to peddle faux pharmaceuticals in today's marketplace. Unlike drugs, which must be proven safe and effective before they can be sold, nutritional supplements are regulated pretty much like any other consumer product. They're legal as long as they don't do any harm, the pills actually contain whatever ingredients are listed on the bottle and the manufacturer doesn't make claims about them that aren't backed up by scientific evidence.

It's why the TV advertising campaign for Enzyte promises only "natural male enhancement."

Millions of people have seen the television commercials for Berkeley's products. The Enzyte ad features "Smiling Bob," a goofy, grinning everyman who sails through a charmed life with a spring in his step, sinking holes in one on the golf course and returning to "a very happy missus at home" — presumably thanks to what Enzyte has done for his virility.

In the days before Bob, when Warshak was just getting started in the dietary supplement business, his claims for Enzyte were

more explicit. He bought ads in the back of GQ and Esquire magazines promising that "over the eight-month program ... your erectile chambers, as well as your penis, will enlarge up to 41 percent."

Today most of the company's claims are less specific — but some them still raise legal issues.

Last month, the federal Food and Drug Administration sent Warshak a letter demanding that he stop claiming Rovicid can lower cholesterol and prevent heart disease. The letter also objected to the marketing of Prulato for the prevention of prostate cancer and Rogisen for macular degeneration, an eye disease that leads to blindness.

This March, the law firm Hagens Berman filed a class action suit against Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals demanding it refund the money of people who bought Enzyte and paid compensatory and punitive damages.

Consumers have lodged more than 3,000 complaints with the Cincinnati Better Business Bureau about Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals and related corporate entities. Jocile Ehrlich, the bureau's president, said she has never seen anything like the number of consumer beefs Berkeley has generated.

It seems the company has been offering free trial samples of its products and then enrolling those who call for them in a "Value Added Program" that automatically ships a new supply every month, billing the refill to the customer's credit card.

Berkeley press materials describe the automatic shipments as a service to ensure that customers don't miss a dose. The company's position has been that customers are informed of Berkeley's billing policies either when they talk to a customer service representative by telephone or order products via the Internet. If they choose to ignore that fine print, well, caveat emptor. It's no different from what often happens when you sign up for a "free" magazine subscription trial or order a "free" credit report on the Internet.

With the lawsuit to fight and investigators for the Ohio attorney general's office breathing down their necks, the company announced in August that it was suspending the Value Added Program until Spirakis can set up an improved system.

Warshak generally acknowledges that he has made a few mistakes, attributing them to growing pains rather than lapses of business ethics.

Advertisements from most of Berkeley's newer products don't



Steven Warshak is president of Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals, maker of nutritional supplements that claim to treat everything from memory loss to prostate cancer.

have the comic value of the 'Bob' spots. Instead, they look and feel a lot like ads for prescription drugs. A casual viewer might not even distinguish an ad for Merck's prescription cholesterol-lowering drug Zocor from one for Berkeley's Rovicid.

That's just because people don't understand what nutraceuticals are, Warshak protests.

The way he sees it, life has three stages: youth, middle age and old age. When you're young, everything works fine. In middle age, things begin to slow down. And finally, in stage three, real disease sets in. That's when it's time to see a doctor about prescription medications.

Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals are for the middle stage, be-

fore things really go downhill, Warshak explains.

While prescription drugs have been proven effective in scientific studies, there is little evidence that dietary supplements like the ones Berkeley sells really do much.

"It's not about whether something works or doesn't work," he said. "It's more about whether it can help or not."

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Hurricanes took toll on Fla. wildlife, environment

BY BILL KACZOR

The Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Fewer than 1,000 Perdido Key beach mice probably existed before Hurricane Ivan struck Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, but scientists are unsure how many remain alive since the Sept. 16 storm.

"They say only time will tell if the mice, found only on the barrier island which they are named, can survive on beaches where storm-driven sand exposed them to predators and buried the vegetation they feed on."

"We know mice still exist," said

Lorna Patrick, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "We are seeing tracks of mice ... but we're not seeing a lot of tracks."

There's similar uncertainty across Florida about other flora and fauna, including such endangered species as sea turtles and red cockaded woodpeckers, after four hurricanes waded the state in August and September.

The beach mice may have been harmed more by other species because there were so few to begin with. Development eliminated most of the dunes where they live long before Ivan slammed into Perdido Key, a

long, narrow sand spit divided by the Florida-Alabama state line.

Predator control also is important for the recovery of sea turtles once the next nesting season begins in March, said Margo Stahl, manager of the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge on Florida's southeast coast where Frances and Jeanne came ashore. "Raccoons, armadillos and other animals dig up the nests," Stahl said. "We lose 90 percent of them without a hurricane."

The storms destroyed every remaining nest that had not yet hatched out, but it could be years before the full effect can be determined, she said.

Red cockaded woodpeckers were little affected by the three storms that struck southern and central Florida, but Ivan was another story in the Panhandle, said Ralph Costa, who heads the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recovery program for that endangered species.

The birds nest only in cavities they peck out of living pine trees over a period of one to three years. Ivan broke or uprooted about 150 of more than 900 active cavity trees at Eglin Air Force Base and the Blackwater River State Forest, Costa said.

Rescuers have inserted more than 100 cedar cavity boxes into

healthy pines at both sites to immediately provide new homes for displaced woodpeckers.

Bald eagles, brown pelicans and ospreys are among other birds that lost nesting trees but it may be a year or so before the full effect can be measured, said Kevin Godsea, lead ranger at the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Florida. Shoreline erosion seldom is a problem in natural environments because beaches and dunes restore themselves over time.

The process, however, takes years. More hurricanes or winter storms in the meantime could undermine and possibly topple coastal buildings.

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Drunken-driving gains are leveling off

By Rick Popely

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Tougher drunken-driving laws and more visible enforcement, such as nighttime roadblocks to check drivers, have helped reduce traffic deaths caused by drinkers. But, after falling for 15 years, the percentage of alcohol-related traffic deaths has held steady at a stubborn 40 or 41 percent of the total.

Why? "As a country, we've got a short attention span as far as issues," said Wendy Hamilton, president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "People believe that the problem is solved. Social issues tend to come and go. It's just not a big issue right now."

In 1982, more than 26,000 people died in alcohol-related accidents, 60 percent of traffic deaths that year. "Alcohol-related" means at least one person involved in an accident had been drinking but was not necessarily legally drunk.

As states adopted tougher laws under federal pressure, the toll from drinking fell to a low of 16,572 in 1999, 40 percent of all traffic fatalities. But alcohol-related deaths increased slightly the next three years before dropping back in 2003 to 17,013, still 40 percent of the total.

Susan Ferguson, vice president

When have you had too many for the road?

CHICAGO — When do you know you have had too much to drink to safely drive? That is difficult to say because a person who has consumed too much alcohol lacks the ability to make that call.

On average, a 170-pound male has to consume four drinks within an hour to reach a blood-alcohol content of .08 percent, the national legal standard to be considered driving while intoxicated. A 137-pound female would have to consume three drinks in an hour to reach .08.

But a study conducted in 2000 for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration concluded driving skills start to erode for most drivers at .02 percent, or one drink, and can decline significantly by .04.

of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a research and lobbying group backed by major insurers, says motorists ignore the laws because they do not expect to be caught.

Federal statistics show only 8.5 percent of the drinking drivers involved in fatal accidents last year had prior convictions for driving while intoxicated. Ferguson believes frequent, high-visibility enforcement such as sobriety checkpoints on highways will do more than tougher laws to convince motorists they should not drink and drive.

"It's not about how many people you arrest. It's about how many people you let know that

you're out there," she said. "They have to believe they will be caught."

However, state and local police departments are strapped for cash and resources, so roadblocks are often limited to holiday periods, such as Thanksgiving or New Year's.

But some say stepped-up enforcement has done all it can to solve the problem, inducing "social drinkers" to drink less or use designated drivers. It is the problem drinkers who cannot be scared straight.

"Most normal people have changed their behavior, but people with alcoholism problems continue to take risks until they get

Brad Fralick, adviser to Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White on drunken-driving issues says the average person needs one hour to metabolize, or break down, one drink so it has negligible or no effect on his or her driving ability.

Does that mean two drinks per hour are too many? "There is no way that a human being can metabolize that much alcohol in an hour," he said.

Fralick says the effects of two drinks vary based on a person's gender, weight, ability to absorb alcohol and how much they have eaten. Men, on average, can absorb 9 percent more alcohol than women because of their greater muscle mass.

— Rick Popely

caught or kill someone," says Pat Larson, director of victim services for Schaumburg, Ill.-based Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists.

July marked the 20th anniversary of a national drinking age of 21, adopted by states under a federal threat to withhold highway funds if they did not go along.

Nevertheless, 19 percent of drivers age 16-20 involved in fatal accidents are legally drunk, the same percentage as 45-54-year-olds.

Drivers age 21-24 have the highest percentage of any group, 32, and 25-34 is next highest at 27 percent.

Three-fourths of drivers involved in alcohol-related fatal ac-

cidents are younger than 35, the "high-risk group," according to Jeff Michael, director of occupant protection and impaired driving for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

One contributor to the decline in drunk-driving deaths in the 1980s and 1990s was the bulk of Baby Boomers grew out of those risky ages, Michael said.

But all the 165 million to 170 million members of Generation Y are still younger than 30 and could make drunken driving a greater issue.

"Certainly, there is a high-risk age period, and if there are more people in this group, that is going to drive the numbers," Michael said.

Any call for action concerning drunken driving usually includes enacting tougher laws and using stricter enforcement.

Ralph Hingson, a professor at Boston University's School of Public Health, says communities need to demand greater enforcement and become more involved in curbing drunken drivers.

"You have to mobilize a community, not just the police. There has to be motivation within the community for police to vigorously enforce the law," he said. Elected officials, civic leaders and schools must be involved in a comprehensive effort that includes reducing underage access to alcohol, Hingson said.

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Hackers turning sights on cellular phones

BY YUKI NOGUCHI
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Early this month, several Web sites began offering software promising ring tones and screensavers for certain cell phones.

But those who downloaded the software found that it turned every icon on their cell phones' screens into a skull and crossbones and disabled their phones, so they could no longer send or receive text messages or access contact lists or calendars.

Security experts dubbed the virus "Skulls" and consider it an early warning from hackers of the damage they could do as they turn their malevolent talents from computers to cell phones.

"Hackers are simply trying to put it out there that it can be done," said Vincent Weaver, senior director of security research for Symantec, a security software firm. "The motivation is to say (cell phones) aren't as secure as you think."

Mobile phones are a tempting target because they have become so much a part of everyday life. In addition, consumers are buying "smart phones" with Internet connections that provide an easier pathway for cell-phone infections. Few phones now in use come equipped with anti-virus protection, although some companies are starting to install it. Most cell phone users aren't on guard for viral infections like those that periodically bring down computers worldwide, and at this point there is little they can do to protect themselves.

"The impact is potentially larger on the phone because we're not savvy about that," said Victor Kounzevsky, senior vice president of mobile solutions at McAfee, a security software firm. "Also, the profile of a mobile society is a cross-section of society who are potentially less (technically) savvy than computer users."

Skulls is one of five cell phone viruses identified this year, according to security experts and analysts. The scale of such attacks is hard to quantify because the federally funded CERT Coordination Center at Carnegie Mellon University, which monitors viruses and worms on the Internet, does not separately tally reports of cell-phone viruses.

But there are anecdotal reports. For instance, in Japan, cell

"By 2006, cell phone viruses will be what viruses are on the Internet in 2004."

John Pescatore
Tech analyst

phones have frequently been "spammed" with junk messages, some of which redirect phones to Web sites that cause the phones to crash.

Most basic phones can send and receive text messages, which makes them vulnerable to some attacks. And new ways of using cell phones encourage the spread of viruses. For instance, cell phones can transfer infections when users participate in a dating service that allows them to contact strangers in the same room via text messages or play on-line games.

Furthermore, existing anti-virus software for computers hasn't been programmed for cell phones.

"By 2006, cell phone viruses will be what viruses are on the Internet in 2004," because cell

phones are in many ways becoming more like miniature PCs, said John Pescatore, an analyst with Gartner, a technology research firm. "First it will be a nuisance. The next step will be crime, like theft or theft of service, and then after that we'll start seeing different types of attacks" that bring down networks, he said.

Cell phones use a number of different operating systems, meaning hackers must design separate programs to disable each one. That makes it harder to design a mass attack. "It's never going to be as uniform a landscape for hackers," so it's not clear how broad an attack might be, said John Jackson, an analyst with the Yankee Group.

Still concerns are growing because of the growth in the usage of cell phones. There are 170 mil-

lion cell phones in use compared to fewer than 116 million personal computers, according to the trade group CTIA — The Wireless Association and market-research firm IDC.

Experts have tried to anticipate how big a problem viruses might be by simulating attacks on cell phones in software labs. They have found e-mail viruses can multiply on their own by sending messages through a cell phone's address book. Viruses can allow hackers into a phone to access passwords or corporate data stored on the device. And they can be used to manipulate the phone to make calls or send messages at the phone owner's expense.

"The nightmare scenario with cell phones is a virus that would delete the contents of your phone, or start calling (a toll number) on its own from the phone or recording every single one of your conversations and sending the recorded conversation somewhere," said Mikko Hypponen, director of anti-virus research at F-Secure Corp., a Finnish security firm.



F-SECURE CORP./LATAP

The cell-phone attack known as "Skulls" affected text messages and contact lists. It is one of five malicious software programs attacking cell phones this year.

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Sunday

Early Service 0830

Sunday School 1000

Morning Service 1100

Evening Service 1800

Monday

Family Bible Institute 1830

Tuesday

Soul Winning & Visitation 1830

Wednesday

Evening Service & Prayer Mtg 1900

Patch & Pee Wee Clubs 1900

Friday

Awara Club 1900

Monthly

Mens Prayer Breakfast 1st Sat

Ladies Meeting 1st Sat

Dec. 2nd Ladies Bible Study Progressive Order (Thursday 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.)

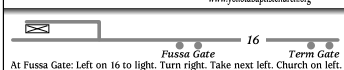
Dec. 4th Adult Christmas Banquet (Sat. 6:30 p.m.)

Dec. 5th YBC Christmas Program

Dec. 12th Choir Carols, Hallelujahs, "Christmas at Home"

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Pastor Charles A. Hall



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2 Corinthians 3:17

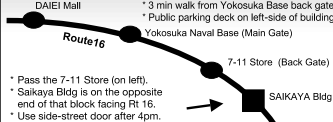
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Wednesday Christian Studies Class - 6:30 pm
Friday Prayer & Evangelistic Service - 6:30 pm

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Tom Brokaw will step down as anchor of NBC "Nightly News" on Wednesday. After holding the network's top news anchor job since September 1983, the 64-year-old will be replaced by Brian Williams.

Brokaw going out on top

NBC anchor stepping down while leading ratings war

BY DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — There's something to be said about going out on top, seeing that last jump shot swish through the net or the final profit report stuffed with extra zeros.

Tom Brokaw makes the TV equivalent when he steps down as anchor of NBC's "Nightly News" on Dec. 1. Younger than competitors Peter Jennings and Dan Rather, he's the first to leave, and does it with the status of America's favorite television newsmen. (Rather, on the other hand, announced Tuesday he's leaving the "CBS Evening News" while mired in last place in a three-way race.) Each of those anchors has spent years on top of the ratings, and years at the bottom. But Brokaw, 64, has been the leader since 1997 and has widened the gap with Jennings after ABC's newsmen made a spirited run at him earlier this year.

"It certainly makes the ease of mind considerably greater," Brokaw said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I'd rather not think about leaving when I'm down."

For two years, NBC has meticulously planned the transition to Brian Williams. There's a lot at stake: the evening news anchor always has been the face of a network news division. Even as morning shows have eclipsed the evening news in profitability, the ratings at night continue to be an important barometer of a division's health.

With the exception of Rather's brief partnership with Connie Chung in the 1990s, there hasn't been a change at the top since Brokaw and Jennings took over in September 1983 — a remarkable 21-year run of stability as the news business changed around them.

Already, ABC News is trying to seize on the opening with campaign-style advertisements touting Jennings' experience.

Even though Brokaw has homes in the New York City area and family that lives in Los Angeles, the secret to his appeal lies in his ability to relate to the vast America between those two coasts.

"Brokaw has come a long way but he hasn't got the pretension of that status. He seems look-you-in-the-eye genuine," said Ken Bode, a former NBC colleague who teaches journalism at DePaul University in Indiana. Bode, a fellow University of South Dakota graduate, has urged Brokaw to run for president, a notion the newsmen politely rejects.

He's not flashy, he's "just this amiable guy," said Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University.

"Even if he's part of the media elite that everyone is suspicious of, he just has this air about him of this is the kind of guy you could invite over for meatloaf," Thompson said.

Brokaw cemented his heartfelt appeal with "The Greatest Generation," the best seller that touched a chord and gave a name to the Americans who fought World War II.

He's the country guy next to the urbane Jennings, and is untouched by media scandal, like the ill-fated story about President Bush's National Guard service that has clouded Rather's final months as anchor. Brokaw's boss, NBC chief Bob Wright, has cited his "red state" appeal.

Brokaw agrees — to a point.

"I think I have a red and blue state sensibility," he said.

"I think, having grown up in South Dakota and having spent a lot of my last 20 years in places like Montana, that I do understand these cultures and these states politically. But I also live in Manhattan and I'm keenly aware of the sensibilities of people in this part of the country. I'm a true purple person."

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ACLU protects rights

The American system of government was founded on a system of checks and balances. Key to this system is that the majority of the people governs and that the power of the majority must be limited to ensure individual rights.

Majority power is limited by the Constitution's Bill of Rights. Without the American Civil Liberties Union the majority-of-the-moment would be free to change your basic rights after every election. Your right to freedom of speech, equal protection, due process, your right to privacy are all rights that the ACLU protects.

In response to the Nov. 22 letter "ACLU has outlived usefulness," the ACLU does not "represent America." It represents the individual rights guaranteed to the citizens by the Bill of Rights.

It does not represent the ever-changing "values" of America; it represents America's original civil values. It does represent the people of America, specifically the people who have traditionally been denied their rights, such as women, minorities, mental health patients, prisoners and disabled veterans. If the rights of America's most defenseless members are denied, it puts everybody's rights in jeopardy.

When I am not deployed defending the Constitution and the will of the democratically elected majority, I am an attorney in a public defender's office and a member of the ACLU. I have personally observed that people normally are not concerned with other people's individual rights, but if they believe that the government is violating their rights, then they will be the Bill of Rights around like a sword and call for the ACLU.

Our great country has always held out the freedom of religion to all people, and while one might not agree that the ACLU should be persuading the Pentagon to remain separate from the Boy Scouts, we should all appreciate that the ACLU is there to protect the freedom of religion and all our basic individual rights.

1st Lt. Bryan T. Andersen
Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan

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Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address and phone and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Be proud of being in military

I am a member of the New York National Guard. I was in the U.S. Navy (1981-85), New York Army National Guard (1991-93) and a year in the Army Reserve, where I was assigned to the judge advocate general with the 800th Military Police Brigade.

I am proud to be in uniform and serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I know what it is to leave behind my family, my career and lifestyle. However, I do agree with "All fighters deserve praise" (letter, Oct. 30) and, with the statement in "Focus on job, not praise" (letter, Nov. 5) as well—that soldiers need to concentrate on doing both their jobs and their part to bring everyone home alive. It is my belief that the men and women of the Guard and reserve units should be praised. They join a long line of citizen-soldiers who were so civilians in uniform.

Active military know they have a job to do and war is part of it. Many who joined the Guard, especially the old-timers, never figured that one day they would be in Iraq.

I'm 42 years old and am considered "old" by the younger guys. We have veterans of both Vietnam and Korea serving

here as well. My daughter got mad at me prior to my leaving, saying, "You did your duty, you served your country."

So did these vets, and they're doing it again. Do they deserve praise? Hell yes, and more! Hopefully, the younger first sergeants and officers learn from them and in turn play their part in bringing everyone home.

As far as the decrease in recruitment for the Guard, I believe the National Guard no longer appears to be serving the state it belongs to. Additionally, the stop-loss situation is not helpful. It's one thing to volunteer; it's another when you're held against your will.

Be proud of being a soldier, sailor, Marine or airman. You own a long history of winners. Help out your fellow man/woman. All have a family to come home to. And everyone is a leader; time will come when the lowest ranking person will have to take charge, so train well. God bless you all.

Sp. Mike Tanner
Baghdad

Start acting like soldiers

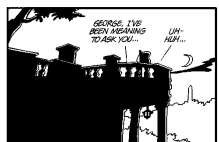
Stop it! Stop whining! Day in and day out for the last 11 months, I've read your petty complaints in Stars and Stripes. You are soldiers, so start acting like it.

You think the men in World War II, Korea or Vietnam worried about someone else's uniform? No. And do you know why? They were too busy trying to stay alive.

But if you absolutely must write in, make it something worthwhile. For example, how much you'll miss your family during the holiday season or, perhaps, dedicate a few paragraphs to a fallen comrade. Save the uniform-imperfection stuff for back home.

And another thing, if you are writing from Kuwait, please don't tell us your gripe. Save the venting for those of us in a real combat zone (that would be Iraq and Afghanistan). Just sit back, enjoy your "combat" pay and sew that patch on your right shoulder (above or below the flag, I don't really care).

Sgt. Casey Clouchette
Forward Operating Base Abu Ghraib, Iraq



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Brawl smacks of new era The Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, N.Y.

National Basketball Association commissioner David Stern was to his name — and beyond — last weekend when he handed out long and expensive suspensions for players involved in the ugly brawl near the end of the Detroit Pistons-Indiana Pacers game [Nov. 19] in Detroit.

Stern didn't hesitate and he didn't hold back, and the punishments he meted out were fully in line with the offenses.

But the players weren't the only villains. What about the fan who dumped his beer on [Pacer Ron] Artest as he sparred with Piston Ben Wallace? The Pistons have the tape, and the team should see to it that that person is identified and prosecuted. ...

The owners should follow Stern's lead. Get tough. Punish fan misconduct with arrest or permanent ejection. Stop or restrict alcohol sales. Put respect for the game first, above money and winning.

Problem beyond filibusters St. Louis Post-Dispatch

One of the most important decisions that President Bush made in the new Congress phase is who and how to put judges on the federal bench, including the U.S. Supreme Court. ...

For the past four years, Democrats have used filibusters to block the use of the filibuster in judicial nominations. Now Republicans are talking about their own "nuclear" veto, a veto that would use the filibuster in judicial nominations.

Both sides should step back from the brink. The Democrats have overused the filibuster. The Republicans have grinded away, if they eliminate this powerful procedural tool. ...

If everyone were true to their word, we might avoid debilitating filibusters. If Mr. Bush appoints highly competent judges who won't read their personal views into the Constitution, and if the Senate avoids litmus tests, we might yet avoid mutually assured destruction.

Bury tactics with Arafat Williamsport (Pa.) Sun-Gazette

The death watch on Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, ripe as it may have been with geopolitical drama, was in the respect of political and media machinism. It would be hard to imagine, in this post-9/11 world, a famous terrorist being welcomed in world capitals, feted with the Nobel Peace Prize, elected to parliament with hundreds of millions (and perhaps billions) of dollars in foreign aid, never prosecuted for his crimes and spending his last days under the protection of a Western government. Yet that was the treatment accorded Arafat in his last years and his last days. ...

The only good thing to say about Arafat is that he no longer stains the planet and restrains whatever Palestinian organization exists from building a civil society based upon the rule of law.

Yet Arafat has so poisoned the political atmosphere among Palestinians that the next generation of leaders, if they can outwit Arafat's terrorist successors, will have no easy task before them. But at least it will be possible.

Immigration plan is lacking San Francisco Chronicle

Because they live clandestine lives, it's easy to forget that most illegal immigrants



work for U.S. employers and are effectively living permanently in the United States.

[This month] President Bush said he was at last willing to engage with Congress on how to bring illegal immigrants out of society's shadows. The problem is that his legalization program doesn't attack the crux of the problem, and it may actually enlarge the current illegal-immigrant population.

Bush is pushing a classic guest-worker program. Employers would have to certify they could not find U.S. workers to fill vacant positions. Immigrant workers would then be able to apply for three-year visas. After that, they would have to return to their home country if they were no longer needed. ...

Bush plan might attract a new class of immigrant, who in the past was not willing to make a life-threatening voyage across the U.S.-Mexico border (in addition to paying a "coyote" to guide them across). These presumably would be the migrants without roots in the United States who Bush envisages would return to their home countries. But it's a well-established axiom in immigration circles that "there is nothing more permanent than a temporary-visa program." Once here, it's likely many recent migrants would stay on, even after their visas expired. ...

Many U.S. businesses will balk at the requirement that they first have to advertise to find U.S. workers before signing up someone it sees the guest-worker better. Thus the plan may be dead on arrival. Immigrant advocates will reject it because it contains no clear pathway to citizenship and employers will reject it because it complicates hiring.

Bush should broaden his plan. ... The president may also need to use some of his post-election "political capital" to bring along GOP conservatives who oppose any kind of aid to immigration.

'MNF' gives us the skinny Chicago Tribune

Finally! The ABC television network, not to be outdone by rival CBS in shimmerying over the fuzzy line of decorum and daring the Federal Communications Commission to slap it with a big fine, has pulled off its own Janet Jackson-like caper. In a segment that aired [Nov. 15] on "Monday Night Football" here in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, game wide receiver Terrell Owens and actress Nicole Sheridan of the ABC hit "Desperate Housewives" shared a seductive moment. ...

It's not that the NFL's Commissioner Paul Tagliabue thunder about the league taking more control over telecasts after the Jackson bare-breast incident in the last Super

Bowl? As if sex and the NFL had never consorted? Please. Sex has been part of the NFL at least since the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders first pranced onto the field in their world-famous skimpy outfits decades ago. The NFL sells sex and violence and the occasional touchdown. ...

We wearily rise to suggest, once again, that such incidents do not warrant the scorched-earth tactics that the FCC has perfected. ... [In] should they be an excuse to embolden Congress to dramatically increase fines. That's just a shortcut to more censorship on television.

Did ABC and the NFL blunder by not knowing their audience? Seems they may have known their audience too well.

Goss repeating mistakes The Daytona Beach (Fla.) News-Journal

CIA Director Porter Goss is repeating history at the nation's most important intelligence agency. Given the CIA's recent history, that's bad news for the agency, worse news for national security.

Two weeks before President Bush launched the Iraq invasion in March 2003, then-CIA Director George Tenet declared to Bush that there was a "slam-dunk case" that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. ...

Tenet had made his "slam-dunk" assessment on evidence that other branches of Bush's administration knew to be questionable, dubious, even false. ... The war was launched anyway. Bush trusted Tenet. And Bush, it is no leap to say, had wanted his war with Iraq since his first year in office, possibly his first weeks. That no weapons of mass destruction were ever found became yet another catastrophic failure of intelligence on the CIA's part, and of judgment on the president's part. ...

In the end, the evidence was too overwhelming to keep Tenet and save the CIA from an overhaul.

Yet Bush immediately provided for insulation by other means with his appointment of Goss. ... It was a political rather than an intelligent appointment ... a politically driven tenure rather than a reforming one.

Darfur visit no panacea The (Baltimore) Sun

The U.N. Security Council's journey to Nairobi, Kenya, this month culminated with a signed commitment between the government of Sudan and rebel leaders in the south to resolve the country's 21-year civil

war by year's end. But the two sides made the same pledge last year.

On a more pressing issue, the council's meeting ... offered no indication that the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region would end soon.

Traveling to Africa may have been an extraordinary gesture ... [but] the only response that truly matters is the action taken by the Sudanese government.

It has the power to rein in the Arab militaries. ...

The grim prospect is that the situation in Darfur will continue as a humanitarian crisis indefinitely. The reality is that the people of Darfur will remain refugees until the government and the rebels in the south enter a power-sharing agreement and a new Sudan emerges.

No one OK'd blank check The Daily News, Longview, Wash.

A post-election Associated Press poll found that two out of three voters prefer that President Bush and Congress balance the budget rather than reduce taxes further. ... [F]ollowing congressional approval of a big increase in the nation's debt limit, some on Wall Street seemed to second that advice.

By not reimposing "pay as you go" budget rules that limit tax cuts and spending increases, Congress had effectively given the administration a blank check to continuing running big deficits, Stephen S. Roach, chief economist at Morgan Stanley, told Washington Post writer Jonathan Weisman. "An open-ended license for this kind of fiscal irresponsibility is a recipe for disaster," Roach said.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has issued the same warning repeatedly over the past year. ...

Now, of course, the federal government is back in the red, as deeply in the red as it's ever been. The past fiscal year's deficit amounted to a record \$413 billion. To accommodate this fiscal irresponsibility, Congress [this month] had to increase the federal debt limit by \$800 billion, to \$8.8 trillion.

The only thing that prevents this heavy debt from rupturing this nation's economy is foreign investment. Congress' failure to demonstrate any resolve with respect to controlling its spending imperils investor confidence.

That's risky, because the moment foreign investors conclude that the United States is incapable of exercising fiscal discipline, they'll begin to dump their U.S. stocks. If and when that happens, interest rates can be expected to soar, denying the economy the capital it needs to grow.

RELIGION

Giving them their daily bread

Pastor teaches job skills at inner-city church sub shop

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON
The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — At True Bethel Baptist Church, the Rev. Darius Pridden is happy to serve the Word. He's also pretty quick to

serve the food. The pastor of the respected church in an impoverished, inner-city neighborhood has installed a Subway sandwich shop inside the building, nudging out part of the choir stand.

The choir's adjusted. The restaurant's booming. Pridden is amazed and amused.

But mostly the energetic pastor is happy to accomplish his goal of giving young people in his community a place to work — or better, someplace to learn to work.

"I expect none of them to be here more than a year, that's my goal," said Pridden, sitting in his church office after presiding over the funeral of a young murder victim.

There are too many such funerals here on Buffalo's east side, where businesses are more likely to close than open. Pridden estimates he buries two young, black victims of street violence every month.

It is violence, he thinks, born of a hopelessness that enfolds the struggling Rust Belt city.

"Visually, audibly, I think this adds to hope," Pridden said, the aroma of baking bread filling the air as employees worked on an assembly line of meat, cheese, pickles, onions and peppers.

Since opening in September, the fast-food franchise has placed consistently among the top performers in the 80-store region, at one point sending an embarrassed Pridden begging for bread at other Subways to get through a crazy rush.

"It's turned into a bigger operation than we ever imagined," he said. "In weeks."

But making money isn't the point, he added. "Money just follows mission."

The church started a work-skills program for young people two years ago but it fizzled without jobs for its graduates. That's when the church, which is housed inside a former supermarket and attracts about 2,000 people each week, opened its own businesses: a small bookstore, silk-screen company and cleaning company that contracts with an adjacent charter school.

For Subway officials, the church location — its first — seemed no problem.

"If there's room and it fits within the zoning board requirements, we're happy," said Les Winograd, a spokesman for the Milford, Conn.-based chain.

The city provided about \$10,000 in small business grants, Common Council member Antoine Thompson said.

Pridden recognizes the drug dealers who come into Subway by the way their money is folded. He believes having them see people who look like them working a legitimate job, even owning a restaurant, can instill hope.

Pridden recruited a 20-year-old

man, Craig Pierce, to manage the shop and he keeps his own Subway uniform in his office closet, regularly donning it to mop floors and handle stock.

He sees the need for job training on the employment applications that cross his desk, some with miss-

ing or incorrect information. "What usually happens is the best get everything — the smartest, the brightest," Pridden said. "The sharpest knife in the drawer gets to cut all the meat and the dull knife never gets an opportunity so it gets laid to the side."



Craig Pierce serves a customer at a Subway restaurant after assisting with a funeral at the True Bethel Baptist Church, located inside the same building as the restaurant in Buffalo, N.Y.

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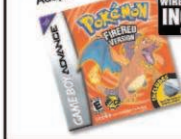


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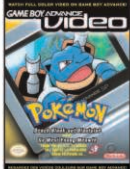


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AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING EXCHANGES

While Supplies Last

Muslim rappers combine beats, beliefs

BY ANNA JOHNSON
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — When David Kelly — aka "Capital D" — raps, he doesn't follow the mainstream mantra of women, cars and jewelry.

Instead, the Chicago rapper uses his rhymes to dish out praise for Allah, criticize the war in Iraq and blast corporate America.

Kelly is among a new group of Muslim rap artists gaining popularity among Muslim-Americans looking for entertainment that reflects both their mainstream tastes and religious beliefs.

"Muslims in the United States are not going away. They're part of the culture, but they're not creating their own culture," Kelly said. "I try to show them that you can be creative, artistic, happy and still be Muslim."

Islam is not new to rap. The Nation of Islam and other nontraditional sects like the "Five Percenters" have influenced hip-hop through lyrics and images since the late 1970s. And Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan has been mentioned and sampled in many raps.

But this new wave of Muslim-influenced music seeks to convey messages and images more in line with orthodox Islam.

"The music says I'm still an American, and I still want my culture. But I want to refine it so I can incorporate Islam into it, too," said Mike Shapiro, 23, who created the Web site www.muslimhiphop.com earlier this year. "Muslims in America and Muslim youths really need this. They don't have anyone to relate to."

Kelly recently performed be-



Muslim rapper David Kelly, aka "Capital D," performs for an attentive audience at the Spoken Word Cafe in Chicago. Kelly is among a new group of Muslim hip-hop artists gaining popularity among Muslim-Americans.

fore a crowd of about 80 people on Chicago's South Side as part of a monthly event organized by the Chicago-based Inner-City Muslim Action Network.

Audience members sipped tea and smoothies as Kelly performed several songs from his latest album, "Insomnia." For religious reasons, Kelly performs only in venues that don't serve alcohol when he is on stage.

"His stuff is really powerful and moving," Sabah Khan, 22, said after Kelly's performance. "I think it's important to support music that's positive. People say they listen to music on the radio because they say they like the beat. But you can have a beat and the song can have a positive message."

Kelly said his music hasn't always been politically charged.

Before converting to Islam four years ago, Kelly — who was raised Catholic — said his music lacked a seriousness and discipline.

"Now, I have a different agenda," he said. "If I am going to put an album out, I have to say something."

That kind of message-driven music also is at the heart of Remarkable Current, an Oakland, Calif.-based record label that features several hip-hop artists. Though listeners may not realize the artists are Muslim when they first hear the music, they will notice the positive messages, said founder Anas Canon.

"I try to push an art out there that is loving and positive and a reflection of our spirituality," Canon said.

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No more paddling

TN MEMPHIS — Beginning next fall, paddling will no longer be allowed in Memphis public schools.

In a tense meeting Monday night, the school board voted 5-4 to abolish corporal punishment, replacing it with a package of alternative disciplinary measures.

"It's just gratifying to know that we have come to a place where we're going to respect our children and treat them with decency," said a grinning Lora Jobe, the board member who waged a seven-year fight to end corporal punishment.

The decision prompted mixed reactions from parents and teachers who packed the auditorium. One parent, Tonya Harris, predicted dire consequences. "The kids are waiting up on this news, and there's going to be fights, starting (today)," she said.

Disgruntled patient

CA VENTURA — A woman upset about problems with her medical appointments flung an ax inside the reception area of a doctor's office, injuring a patient and smashing a window, police said.

Sybil Busch, 54, was booked into jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and felony vandalism.

Police were called to Urgent Care in Ventura after the woman entered the building armed with a foot-long ax and complained about appointment problems, police Lt. David Wilson said. She slashed a large window with the ax after yelling at the receptionist and trying to climb over the counter, he said.

Michael Fiddes, 62, of Ventura, pulled the woman down from the counter and was cut on the hand by the ax, Wilson said.

Expensive wine bottle

NY NEW YORK — Raise a glass — 1,200 of them to be exact — to New Jersey, now home to the world's largest bottle of wine.

A Tenafly, N.J., business paid \$55,812 for a 4 1/2-foot tall bottle of cabernet sold Saturday at Sotheby's, said auction house spokeswoman Kristin Gelder. Wine Ventures, a wine and chocolate shop, plans to put the bottle on display at its Bergen County business.

The 340-pound bottle was the work of master glass blowers in the Czech Republic, and holds the equivalent of 173 standard bottles of Beringer Vineyards 2001 Private Reserve Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. That translates to 1,200 glasses of wine.

The bottle, dubbed Maximus, was certified as the world's largest by the Guinness World Records. The Morton's steakhouse chain, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, partnered with Beringer to create the record-setting bottle.

Doll rescued

IN KIRKLAND — Rescuers responding to a report of an infant left alone in a car arrived to find that she wasn't



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

breathing.

No big deal, since the rescuee turned out to be nothing more than a doll in a car seat.

A woman had phoned the Clinton County Sheriff's Department shortly before 4 p.m. Sunday and said a baby had been left in a locked car in Kirklin, a town of 800 about 40 miles north of Indianapolis. The woman told the dispatcher she thought the child might not be breathing.

Sheriff's deputies, firefighters and emergency medical technicians raced to the scene and used a special device to unlock the car's door, said Sheriff's Department Lt. Joe Mink.

When officers opened the car door they discovered the supposed infant was a doll, Mink said. No further action was taken.

\$7 million fraud scheme

TX HOUSTON — A lawsuit is accusing a bank and 24 other businesses and individuals of helping a Clear Lake man in a \$7 million fraud scheme.

Larry Michael Nixon, 55, has been accused of faking his own death. The man known for his parties and big spending disappeared after his speedboat, "Living Extra Fast," smashed into a barge in August 2003 in the Houston Ship Channel. He was found alive in January in a house in the North Texas town of Weatherford.

The lawsuit was filed Friday by Old National Bank of Evansville, Ind., and M. Gene Marlin of Greenwood, Ind., a former part-



Holiday cheer

With a truck of more than 700 Christmas trees in the back-dragon, Riley Hoffman, 12 from Boy Scout Troop 199, helped unload the trees for the Scouts' annual Christmas tree sale at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church in Mission, Kan.

ner of Nixon.

It accuses Moody National Bank and Michael Hazelwood, vice president and loan officer at its Clear Lake branch, of conspiring with Nixon to obtain loans to buy nonexistent cranes.

Nurse charged

RI PROVIDENCE — The attorney general's office filed felony criminal-negligence charges against a nurse, saying she ignored the pleas of an 85-year-old resident of a nursing home who died after complaining of chest pains and asking for her nitroglycerin.

The patient, Eva Thomas, said she thought she was having a heart attack, according to court records. But an investigation found that the nurse, Deborah M. Colby, 53, told co-workers that Thomas was faking.

Reached at home, Colby said she didn't know about the criminal complaint filed against her. She said she was trying, unsuccessfully, to reach her lawyer.

"I'm shaking like a leaf," she said.

Seal pup captured

CA OAKLAND — The Oakland Fire Department captured a wayward elephant seal pup hanging out in a drainage culvert two miles from San Francisco Bay and turned it over to wildlife experts.

Called "Emmy," after one of the rescuing officers at the scene, the healthy 11-month-old seal surfaced about midday Tuesday to the amazement of passersby.

Cars double-parked for about a block and a half, clogging traffic, while a crowd gathered to see the 181-pound gray marine mammal, which was going the wrong way in one of the covered creeks that runs through Oakland.

Mark Hoffmann, the fire chief who coordinated the capture, said it looked as though the seal was in danger from trash and humans.

Within an hour, the Fire Department's heavy-rescue unit secured the seal in a sling and pulled it out with a crane. It was to be released into the bay.

Officers asked for DNA

KS WICHITA — Investigators seeking Wichita's most notorious serial killer are asking former Wichita police officers to provide DNA samples. Lt. Ken Landwehr said the samples will exonerate officers who worked during the time of the so-called BTK murders. The initials stand for "Bind, Torture, Kill," the self-coined nickname of a serial killer connected with eight unsolved homicides between 1974 and 1986.

Rare trees protected

HI HILO — The state is setting aside 1,200 acres on the Big Island to grow rare koa trees suitable for building traditional Polynesian voyaging canoes. The Polynesian Voyaging Society estimated the first trees may be ready to harvest after construction in 20 years. Koa logs large enough to fashion into canoes are about 35 to 45 feet long.



Risky job

Russell Tucker, 47, starts to shimmy up the 70-foot-high flag pole in front of a McDonald's restaurant in Las Cruces, N.M., with nothing but a set of ropes.



Creative sand art

Carl Jara, a sand sculptor, works on part of the "SANDstruction" exhibit at The Children's Museum of Cleveland in University Circle, Cleveland.



Extreme fun Chuck Speck catches some air on a homemade jump at the edge of the Hart Prairie ski run at the Arizona Snowbowl, near Flagstaff, Ariz.



Pooch auditions Robbie Hiltz of Andover, Minn., hugs Jake, 18 months, at a casting call for St. Bernard dogs to play the role of Santabar's dog in the Holidazzle parade.



Safety practice Johanna Walklet, 9, from Providence, R.I., skates around safety cones during a visit to the Fleet Skating Center in downtown Providence.



Peaceful serenity A rainbow stretches across Jones Valley during a short break in the rain showers in Huntsville, Ala.

Granny saves the day

WA LYNNWOOD — When this granny saw a handcuffed man trying to flee from a department store, she didn't just step out of the way of the charging scowflaw.

"I get pushed and shoved a little sometimes at the mall, but nothing like this," said 60-year-old Janice Lewis.

Lewis, who has 10 grandchildren, grabbed the man's jacket and held on until he was tackled by Officer Anne Codiga. She broke a finger and bruised her hand in the scuffle.

The chase began across the street from Alderwood Mall on Monday when workers at Verity Credit Union reported a man was trying to use an account that wasn't his. Police had arrested and handcuffed the man, and were leading him outside when he bolted.

Lewis had seen the man running from police near the credit union, but thought officers had caught him. So she was shocked to see him suddenly running toward her from the parking garage.

The man was booked for theft and assault.

Judges being evaluated

MA BOSTON — Judicial officials are completing their first comprehensive evaluation of the state's 340 judges. The evaluations are part of a drive to improve management and efficiency in the state court system, which a panel of business and academic leaders described as "mired in confusion" two years ago. The results of the surveys won't be made public. Officials say only a small percentage of judges received poor marks.

Dog is mom to kittens

MI EDWARDSBURG — A Shih Tzu who, her owners say, longed for years to give birth is finally getting a chance to nurse some little ones, even if they're the wrong species.

Owners Jean and Bill Schirf said the dog, named Geisha Girl, used to take a toy dog, wrap herself around it in her basket and mother it for a week or two.

Now she's doing the same thing with two stray kittens that Jean Schirf found two weeks ago in the woods behind her Cass County home.

"She wraps herself around them all night long," Schirf said. Not only did Geisha Girl start watching over and cleaning the kittens, which have been named Dilly and Dally, she started lactating within about a week — enough to provide them with some of the milk they need. Schirf helps out by bottle-feeding the cats 2 percent milk.

New bridge on I-10

FL PENSACOLA — A new Interstate 10 bridge connecting Escambia and Santa Rosa counties will replace the one damaged by Hurricane Ivan. The money will come from a provision in the \$388 billion spending bill approved by Congress over the weekend. State engineers have estimated that build-

ing the new bridge will cost \$325 million.

Pierce not forgotten

NH CONCORD — Tuesday is the 200th birthday of the only U.S. president from New Hampshire, and the state's historical society is throwing a party, complete with cake. Franklin Pierce was the 14th president from 1853 to 1857, as the nation headed toward the Civil War. An exhibit will explore Pierce's life through more than 100 objects, paintings, photographs and documents.

Legislator wants recount

TX AUSTIN — Rep. Talmadge Heflin, a Republican who lost his Houston race by 32 votes, requested a formal recount with the Texas Secretary of State's office. Democrat Hubert Vo, a Houston businessman and former Vietnamese refugee, successfully challenged the long-time legislator. Heflin is regarded as one of the most powerful members of the Texas House.

Recount confirms win

MN ST. PAUL — The state canvassing board confirmed the victory of Judy Soderstrom, a Republican incumbent in a close House race that was key to determining control of the chamber. Soderstrom won a second term by 76 votes over Democratic challenger Tim Faust, according to an automatic recount. Her win preserves the Republicans' 68-66 majority in the House.

Schools to pool resources

CO DENVER — Three Colorado universities signed an agreement to form a joint school of public health that could start in 2007.

Colorado State University, the University of Colorado and the University of Northern Colorado plan to pool resources and expertise to offer bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. It would be the first school of public health in the Mountain West.

Predictions on volcano

WA VANCOUVER — If lava continues to pile up inside the crater of Mount St. Helens at the current rate, the volcano could rebuild its summit in about 10 years. It's more likely the volcano will erupt sporadically during the next 20 to 50 years and gradually regain its former height, said Willie Scott, a volcanologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascades Volcano Observatory. The 1980 eruption blasted off 1,313 feet, leaving the mountain at 8,364 feet.

Governor very popular

CT HARTFORD — Gov. M. Jodi Reil's popularity is at a new high with Connecticut voters, according to the latest Quinnipiac University poll. The poll gives Reil an 80 percent approval rating, nearly the highest of any governor ever surveyed by the university. The telephone poll of 1,774 registered voters was conducted between Nov. 15-21.

Stories and photos from wire services

Sunday Horoscope

It's a lazy morning, and energy is scattered, but that's not to say all those fragmented strands of effort aren't going to good use. We're not always lucky enough to see the results of our actions until much, much later in our lives. But you can be sure that every activity matters. Handle correspondence and finances this evening.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER 28. Love lights your way this year; a promise is fulfilled in the next four weeks. Consolidate your resources, and prepare for big changes. An entrepreneurial project is featured in December. Powerful people start to take notice. Your love life is a hot item in January. You must make a choice that affects how you'll spend the rest of the year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A charming infant terrible, you're an indispensable part of your group. If not for you, everyone would keep marching to the drum of perfect, boring stasis. If you're accused of being a troublemaker, grin, and say, "That's me."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your penetrating sincerity will pierce the bubble of a problem, deflating it over the course of the next few days. This power can also be used to conquer your lingering anxieties about events on the horizon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). This is not a status quo kind of day, unless, of course, you're content and minded to settle for it. Challenge yourself. What would make you want to sing a song of praise or emote a triumphant shout?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). An alcohol approach to love works wonders. Being clingy is trying anything. Spend time with a romantic interest because you want to, not because you need to. Ask to be delivered from a battle that was never yours to fight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's not enough for you to make your voice to protect others or further a cause you believe in but did not originate. Believe in your own worthiness. It

may as well be you! Advance, and achieve — retreat, and watch someone else achieve.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't need a formal ritual to divorce yourself from a part of your life that has become outworn. Let it go the way you discharge any other heavy burden — open your hand, and drop it where you stand.

Holiday Mathis



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Having a day off is an opportunity for proactive thinking and planning. Action taken on an administrative level is the way to good fortune, but it's not going to happen unless you write it down on your calendar and really do it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You know better than to wait for a reason to reach out. Your self-esteem is anything but fragile now. You can bare your soul with no fear of how others will react (since it will have zero effect on the way you see yourself).

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). With only 10 percent more compassion for yourself, you will understand what motivates you. With 10 percent more compassion for others, you'll know their intentions and accept their gifts as loving gestures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you take things literally, you'll be frustrated. The day is ripe with complexity, symbolism and hidden meaning. Look deeply into every situation, beyond what can be captured on video and into the story behind the story.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Conflict is scary, not just for you but for many — OK, it's scarier for you. Though you're not up to hurt feelings, into every relationship a little confrontation must fall — otherwise, someone is not being real.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You define friendship in broad terms and are therefore able to have many friends. Embrace these fearful, imperfect human beings you've chosen to make a part of your world.

Creators Syndicate

Biting through the pain

Where does the phrase "bite the bullet" come from? My guess is the military, though why anyone would actually bite a bullet is beyond me.

You are half right in supposing that "bite the bullet" (and the earlier "bite on the bullet") comes from the military. The phrase originated in military medical practices of the 19th century.

During the American Civil War, unsanitary conditions and poorly trained field surgeons were just two reasons that amputation was the most commonly performed operation for a wounded or gangrenous arm or leg. In

the days before antiseptics, it was easier to remove the infected part than to stop the pain.

But the field surgeons didn't have anesthesia, either — perhaps just a bit of whiskey, as in old westerns. To help the patient endure the pain of amputation, they would give him a bullet or some other hard object to bite down on, in much the way you might clench your fist while enduring a painful injection or tooth extraction.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

New approach may be needed to motivate unresponsive son

Dear Abby: My 9-year-old stepson, "Bryan," is turning into a feminine little boy. He knows all about girly products and what is on sale at the mall. Bryan's mother treats him like a baby.

All they do at their house is sit around and watch TV. She has no friends, and neither do we. He does not get involved with anything he is exactly like his mother.

When Bryan is at our house, we try to get him involved in activities, but the boy is lazy and doesn't want to participate. Then he tells his mother that his father yells at him. My husband does yell, but only to get Bryan off his butt to do something. The result is Bryan wants to spend very little time with us because of his mother's constant babbling.

At our house, he has chores and we make him help with things.

After house, she does everything for him.

How can we make Bryan less feminine and involve him with friends and activities?

— "Wicked" Stepmom in Pennsylvania

Dear Stepmom: This is a parent's job to help a child be the best

that he (or she) can be. That does not mean the father remains the child in his own image, and that may be what the boy is resisting. Bryan is not particularly "masculine," and he's not interested in what you and your

husband are trying to force him into. Your insistence on trying to make him fit your mold may be what is driving him away.

Instead of yelling at him to get him "off his butt," if you need his help with chores, say exactly that. ("Bryan, I need your help with something.") And since he isn't interested in the usual "boy things,"

perhaps it's time you and your husband expose the boy to art, music, dance, to see what does turn him on.

If none of the above does the trick, then some professional counseling for the three of you to establish a healthier level of communication is in order. You may be able to help Bryan be more social, but don't count on changing the core of who he is.

Dear Abby: My wedding is scheduled for the fall of next year. My parents are paying for the wedding. My previous boyfriend's grandmother. She has never shown any interest in me and

doesn't know me from a hole in the wall. She has been verbally abusive to my father throughout his entire life. She even told him once that he was a "mistake" and she didn't even want to have him.

I do not want this woman at my wedding, but I know my father wants her there. My dad feels that since I am her only granddaughter, she should be present. I have nothing but anger toward her because of the way she has treated my father and her interference toward me.

Who should decide whether the mean old bag will attend? Since my parents are paying, does my father get the final say? Oh, did I mention that my mother does not want Granny there, either? How should this be handled?

— Hates Granny in Maryland
Hates G.G.: My advice is to be a lady and be gracious.

Your father has his reasons for wanting his mother to come to the wedding. Please find it in your heart to grant his wish without giving him further heartburn. On your wedding day, you will be so busy with your wedding party and your husband, you'll hardly even know the woman is there.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Haverhill, MA 01830. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.abbycandor.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Husband should tell car mechanic that it's time to back off

Dear Annie: My 50-year-old husband has fallen victim to a flirt.

"Georgia" is 20 years younger and a member of our wine-tasting group. She follows my husband's every move and glues herself to his side, laughing, touching and hugging him. I once caught her showing him a picture of the two of them that she keeps in her wallet. It was a group shot, and she cut out all the others. Georgia often tells my husband that he's good-looking and what a cute couple they'd make. She is friendly to me, but it's only to get personal information about my husband. Surprisingly, she is engaged to another member of our group, but there is no wedding in sight.

My husband is flattered, of course, but insists that Georgia see him as a father figure. Well, she already has a father, thank you. Her behavior really bothers me, and she seems oblivious to my comments that her attentions are not welcome. I trust my dear husband, but I don't trust her. He thinks Georgia's flirting is harmless and that I am jealous

for no reason. To his credit, he tries to avoid Georgia, so as not to upset me. I no longer enjoy these gatherings, but cannot stop attending because we are officers of the group. How do I deal with Miss Hot Pants?

— No Name, Please
Dear No Name: Your husband is the one who should tell Georgia to back off. His tolerance of her flirting is the same as encouragement, and he needs to be more forceful about telling her to leave him alone.

If Georgia continues stalking your husband, you might consider quitting the group, regardless of your status there.

Dear Annie: Every year, my company gives its employees donation cards to a charity, and we're instructed to turn the cards in with our donations. The trouble is, if employees do not choose to contribute, our department heads lean on us. They want to claim 100 percent participation. Each year I have given a small donation.

I have co-workers who have been upgraded for not giving

enough.

We've been told to give one hour's pay per month. This may not sound like much, but there have been times when my wage was so tight around my house that the extra few dollars meant having gas money for the week.

I give when I can, to my church and to the charities of my choice.

I resent that my company tries to intimidate me into giving what I cannot afford to a charity I do not support. What should I tell my boss if he attempts to lean on me? Do I have any legal recourse? Please help.

— Not Feeling Charitable

Dear Not Charitable: Being "leaned on" is not illegal unless your job is threatened if you don't contribute. Simply give what you can and say "sorry" when you can't. If you feel unduly pressured, however, it might help to talk to your supervisor and say so. In fact, if several employees do this together, perhaps the boss will tone down the demands.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Gregory Siskind, editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's Personality **PARADE**

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

Q My boyfriend started smoking, citing many stars who smoke. Doesn't it bother anyone in Hollywood that they still glamorize this deadly habit? — Denise Worley, Camden, N.J.

A Yes. "I vowed to try to stop Hollywood from glamorizing tobacco if I survived throat cancer," says screenwriter Joe Eszterhas (Basic Instinct), 59, who had 80 percent of his larynx removed in 2001. "Sadly, many stars still smoke and use cigarettes as acting props." Visit www.parade.com for more on Eszterhas and his public-service campaign.

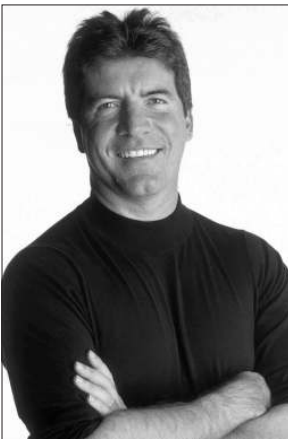
Q I thought Jack Nicholson had met his match in Lara Flynn Boyle, but then they split up. Do you think a woman will ever tame him? — Paul Grubb, Newark, Del.

A We doubt it. Jack's troubled childhood (until his 30s, he thought his mother was his sister) didn't prepare him for normal relationships with women. Still, he's not exactly the love-'em-and-leave-'em type. Says Edward Douglas (a pseudonym), author of the new bio "Jack: The Great Seducer": "Nicholson provides homes for many of his ex-girlfriends and his children, but he never wants to live with them."



KRT

Jack Nicholson is still defying women's attempts to tame him.



FOX

Don't be fooled: Behind the friendly smiles of Simon Cowell, above, of "American Idol," and Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth, right, of "The Apprentice," lie cold hearts of evil. We know, because TV always tells the truth.

Q Who do you think would win a verbal battle: Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth, the scheming former "Apprentice" contestant, or outspoken "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell? — Dana Jones, Jupiter, Fla.

A We put our money on Simon, because he's much nastier than Omarosa — and that's saying a lot.

Q Nick Lachey is at least as talented as his bimbo wife, Jessica Simpson. Why doesn't he get more attention? — Karen B., Venice, Calif.

A Don't worry. Nick, 31, soon may rival Jessica, 24, for attention. The former boy-band heartthrob is juggling offers, including deals from both Fox and ABC. He flexed his acting muscles with recent gigs on "Charmed" and "Hope & Faith" and landed a role in "The Hard Easy," a film with Davidorean. This shift in focus from Jessica to Nick contributed to rumors that their marriage is on the rocks.



KRT

Mr. Jessica Simpson should soon have his time in the limelight.

Q Your items on who made the most guest appearances on "The Tonight Show" made me curious: Who has been David Letterman's most frequent guest? — Brian T., Sacramento, Calif.

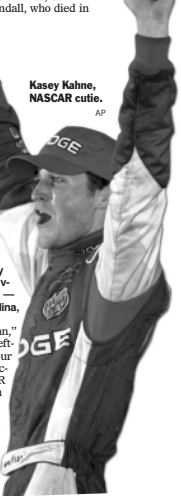
A Dave says Tony Randall, who died in May at 84, held that distinction with more than 100 appearances. Incidentally, the actor's obituary claimed he also was Johnny Carson's most frequent "Tonight Show" guest rather than our reported pretenders-to-the-title, Steve Martin and the late Rodney Dangerfield.

Kasey Kahne, NASCAR cutie.

AP

Q Is Kasey Kahne, my favorite NASCAR driver, dating anyone? — April Burchett, Medina, Ohio

A "I'm a single man," Kasey, 24, told us, deftly swerving around your question. But our sources say the NASCAR phenom, who won more than \$4 million this year, had a girlfriend with him at the races. There, the female rivalry over Kasey was as brutal as the competition on the track.



KRT

Q A while back, I read about a "Little Women" musical coming to Broadway. What happened to it? — Jon Graham, Salem, Mass.

A "The producers were waiting to assemble the perfect cast," says singer Maureen McGovern, 55, who'll play Marmee, the mother of the high-spirited March sisters. "Sutton Foster is amazing. She seems to be channeling Jo straight out of the book." Foster is a Tony winner for "Thoroughly Modern Millie." Previews begin Dec. 7 on Broadway.

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YOUR MONEY

Preparing for the first step of a big step

When shopping for an engagement ring, good planning is key

BY RUDY ANTOMPIETRI
AND MITCH SWANDA

Special to Stars and Stripes

More than a few servicemembers have returned home to their significant others with marriage on their minds. And, traditionally, before popping the question comes choosing the ring, which can be a major financial commitment. Let's face it — ring shopping can be an intimidating experience for a first-timer. But armed with some basic knowledge about jewelry and a good financial plan, you can make a confident purchase.

There are three major stages in the ring-buying process — finding the right ring, deciding how to pay for it and protecting your investment. Here is an overview of the essentials.

Choose ring carefully

Choosing the right ring is a personal decision that comes from the heart, but you also should use your head to make sure you're getting a quality product at a price within your means. Consider the following factors:

■ **The budget.** While that full-carat solitaire diamond may be a perfect fit for your bride-to-be, it also may be too big for your wallet. A common guideline is to spend an amount equal to one to two months' pay on an engagement ring, but first consider your other financial obligations. Being knee-deep in debt before the wedding bells ring can put unnecessary stress on a young marriage. It's best to seek a balance between glitter and good sense. Also keep in mind that diamonds don't have to be forever. Some jewelers offer diamond upgrade programs, allowing



Courtesy of U.S.A.

Many servicemembers will return home this season with marriage on their mind. When shopping for a ring, be armed with a budget and some knowledge of jewelry.

owners to "trade in" a smaller diamond for a larger stone down the road.

■ **The four Cs.** Carat (the weight of the diamond), cut (the shape of the stone), color (the amount of color in the stone) and clarity (the number of flaws inside or on the surface of the diamond) are the keys to unlocking the mystery of the diamond selection process. These attributes are standard measures of a diamond's quality, making it easier for non-experts to identify a valuable jewel. A diamond that ranks high

in the four Cs is considered to be rarer, and thus more expensive. This explains why a smaller, near-perfect diamond may cost more than a larger but flawed one. Plan to devote some time to learn more about the four Cs. You'll be happy you did.

■ **The ring setting.** Keep in mind that your fiancée may have a preference as to what the setting looks like. While yellow gold is most traditional, platinum, white gold and two-tone are all popular options at varying price ranges.

■ **The jeweler.** Not all jewelers are the same, so it's important to work with an organization you trust that offers the service you need. To the benefit of deployed servicemembers, some diamond retailers now provide comprehensive gem selection and quality service over the Internet. Whether shopping in cyberspace or at the mall, look for a retailer with an on-site gemologist that helps select the highest quality merchandise. Be sure the jeweler will provide a certified appraisal for the diamond you choose, and a satisfaction guarantee.

Don't rush the payment

After weeks or even months of searching, you've finally found the perfect ring to make her dreams come true. Even if you're comfortable with the price, how you pay for the ring is another decision that shouldn't be taken lightly.

■ **Cash.** If you're being saving up for that special purchase, your efforts to avoid debt are commendable. But plunking down a wad of cash for a ring may not be wise because it provides less protection than other forms of payment. Having a third-party record of the transaction will help you resolve any potential misunderstandings.

■ **Credit card.** Though relying on credit isn't always the best decision, purchasing jewelry is one example of a good time to use a credit card. The card creates a paper trail that allows the purchaser to deny payment if any wrongdoing is discovered. And today, lower interest rates available to those with good credit make using a credit card an even more attractive option. As always, it's best to pay off the balance as soon as possible to avoid paying much more for the ring than you actually want.

■ **Personal loan.** Whether it's financing offered through the jeweler or a loan you secure from your own bank, this is another option with built-in safety features. If taking this route, don't forget the dotted line you've shop-lined around and understand the terms of the loan, and how the interest charges affect the total cost of the ring.

SEE RINGS ON PAGE 31

Education, career can help spouses find 'bliss'

Susie Besaw, from the book *"The Savvy Sailor's Spouse,"* is next to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband Jake's new command.

The next Family Readiness Group (FRG) meeting was about organizing and improving your career through education. We had two speakers: Carol from the PFSC and Bob from Navy College. But before we heard from our speakers, we went through the FRG's committee reports. The most interesting committee report was from our Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee chair, Pat Barnett.

Pat told us her committee was helping to register several families with newborns for the Navy Relief's "Budget for Baby" class and Layette program. The Layette program, run entirely by Navy Relief volunteers, was designed to help new and prospec-

tive parents learn about the impact that a new baby may have on the family financial situation. Through a program of preventive education, Pat told us Navy Relief teaches sailors and their families about variations in pay and increased expenses; common consumer pressures targeted to new parents; and entitlements available through both government and private sources. Pat also mentioned the Layette, also known as a Junior Seabee, is issued to any eligible recipient who has recently had a baby or whose child will be born within six months. It consists of a coordinated set of bedding and clothing, a baby book, and a handmade item, such as a sweater set, Afghan or quilt, all packed in a tote or duffel bag. Layettes are given to recipients after the "Budget for Baby" class or complete an individual budget session with a society case-worker.

Evelyn, our president, then announced our speakers, Carol and Bob.

"Thank you, Evelyn," Carol said, as she and Bob walked to the front of the room. "I'm Carol Young, spouse employment coordinator at the PFSC, and this is Bob Reynard from the Navy College Office. Tonight we are going to talk about education for military spouses and how it can better your career opportunities."

"For the purpose of tonight's presentation, I'd think of school as a combination of both gaining skills and personal growth."

"In my 15 years at the Fleet and Family Support Center, I've seen thousands of spouses — all looking for their bliss."

"Bliss?" Evelyn asked. There was light chatter in the crowd.

"Yes, bliss," Carol replied, "or when you've found a need you enjoy filling every day. I believe most people can find many needs

well, but only one of them would help them wake up every morning looking forward to filling the need they've chosen," Carol replied. "For the past 15 years I've been waking up looking forward to helping Navy spouses. I would say I've found my bliss."

But what if you've found your bliss, but it doesn't pay enough to cover your bills?" someone asked.

"Try to decrease your bills without sacrificing your quality-of-life, if possible," Carol replied. "Sometimes it's not easy. If you need help dealing with your bills, then you can talk to one of our financial counselors at the PFSC or talk to a Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society case worker. If you lower your monthly expenses and you still can't cover everything, then you need to find a need that earns more pay. More pay usually requires more skills and more skills mean talking to Bob at Navy College. I'll let Bob take it from here," Carol said.

Thank you, Carol, everyone," Bob said in his soothing, low voice. "I work at the local Navy College Office and want to spend

a few minutes telling you what we do at Navy College.

The Navy College has offices in 62 major shore installations around the world. These form the backbone of the Navy College program. The Navy College consists of a network of professional education services specialists, education technicians, and guidance counselors. These professionals consult and advise Navy members and their families on all matters relating to academic programs and tuition assistance. They also administer all on-base education programs. Some specific examples of how we help include:

■ Analyzing and defining your education goals and capabilities. Reviewing your previous college work and helping you apply.

■ Selecting courses and programs you will need to succeed in helping you enter a suitable college, university or training school.

■ Finding ways to help you earn credit-by-examination.

SEE SPOUSES ON PAGE 31



Ralph Nelson

YOUR MONEY

In-laws' will worries life

Q: All I want for Christmas is for my in-laws to make their estate plan.

I'm not greedy. I don't want their money, their property or their cars or small business. What I really want is freedom from the fear that my husband—who is involved in the family business—and I will be forced to deal with the inevitable confusion, hassles and unnecessary expenses that come when people don't bother to plan.

We've tried to bring up this subject with them a few times, but they always brush off my saying they will do something about it later. My husband also has siblings, which further complicates matters even though they are not involved in the business. How can we get their parents to act?

A: People have plenty of reasons to avoid estate planning. Confronting our own mortality isn't exactly fun, and good estate-planning attorneys aren't cheap.

But people who don't bother to create a will or living trust run the risk that the final, lasting impression they will leave is that they didn't care enough about their loved ones to spare them the "confusion, hassles and unnecessary expenses" you rightly foresee.

Each state has rules about who gets what when someone dies intestate, or without a will. Those rules can work for people who don't have much and don't care who gets what little they have. But those rules can be disastrous for people of means, like your in-laws. The state may decide that your company should go in equal shares to your husband and his siblings, for example—even if the siblings have shown no interest in or aptitude for the business and your husband has been running it

single-handedly for decades.

Or the company could get stuck in probate, the court process that typically follows death, for months or years, making it difficult to run the business. In some states, including California, probate costs can eat up 3 percent or more of the gross estate—an expense that's well worth planning to avoid.

Finally, there is the issue of estate taxes, which are still with us even though they are being phased out under current law (they will be back in force in 2011 unless Congress acts to prevent that). Again, a little planning now could significantly reduce the costs that your in-laws' estate incurs later.

Because the direct approach hasn't worked so far, you might consider restarting the discussion by focusing on a somewhat "softer" issue. Mention that you and your husband have drawn up durable powers of attorney for health care that name someone to make decisions for you if you should become incapacitated. Ask your in-laws whom they would want to nominate as decision maker under similar circumstances.

If that discussion goes well, you—or better yet, your husband—can branch the topic of a more complete estate plan. Emphasize your well-founded fears that the business they would so hard to build could be incinerated by their demise.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted via her Web site, <http://www.lizweston.com>, although she asks that she cannot respond personally to queries.



Liz Pulliam Weston

Money Talk

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

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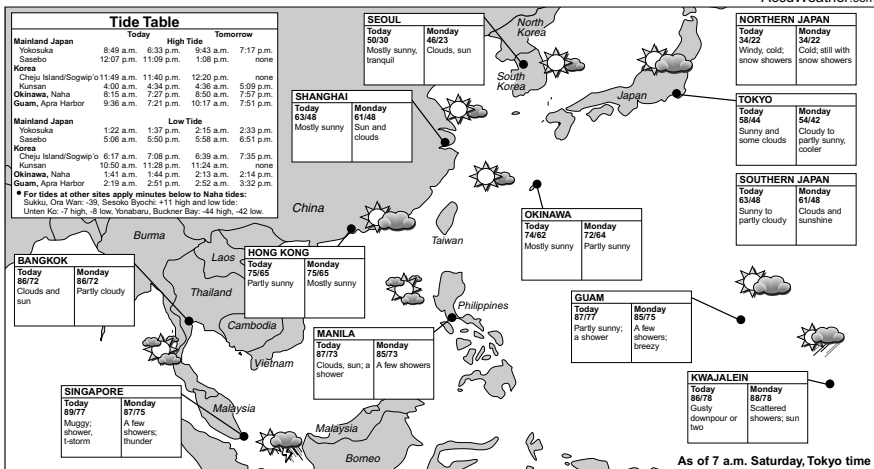
52-week	High	Low	Close	Net	% Chg	YTD 52-week
10,753.63	10,629.97	Dow Jones Industrial	11,624.31	+17.1	+0.15	+24.95
3,611.53	3,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,647.59	+26.51	+0.73	+21.30
22.28	24.42	Dow Jones Small-Cap	23.78	+8.2	+0.35	+24.50
7,042.22	5,842.32	NYSE Composite	7,015.55	+31.05	+0.44	+8.94
1,176.25	1,066.26	AMEX Index	1,181.49	+12.25	+1.05	+22.54
2,102.93	1,945.29	Russell 2000 Composite	2,103.64	+14.36	+0.69	+12.54
1,188.46	1,075.28	S&P 500	1,181.76	+4.62	+0.39	+11.65
5,412.97	5,402.29	FTSE 100	5,393.05	+4.86	+0.09	+11.19
627.80	515.90	Nikkei 2250	629.50	+4.87	+0.78	+13.02
116,648.0	116,996.67	D. Wobleson	116,211.22	+68.74	+0.06	+7.61

NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)					Most Active (\$1 or more)					Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Name	Vol	Of	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Of	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Of	Last	Chg
Northell II	399115	3.37	+	20	Nasdaq100	720592	39.35	+	35	SiriusXM	4049495	6.25	+	46
Verizon	285020	26.78	+	20	SPDR	285020	18.84	+	20	United Ther	255444	2.54	+	44
Johnson & Johnson	281892	48.01	+	41	Semistar	122939	31.51	+	24	Intel	156680	23.61	+	24
Citigroup	174623	39.29	+	20	QJA Duan	66901	195.43	+	40	Cisco	572328	13.21	+	21
Bank of America	167935	35.64	+	20	SPDR	61319	20.51	+	20	Apple	571600	12.21	+	21
General Electric	167935	35.64	+	20	QJSHAN	40423	10.29	+	40	Apple(MM)	262768	16.96	+	46
Merck	17158	27.58	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	Asystech	24979	46.85	+	27.78
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Microsoft	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Amazon	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Google	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Facebook	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Twitter	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
LinkedIn	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
YouTube	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Netflix	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Spotify	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Apple	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Microsoft	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Amazon	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Google	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Facebook	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Twitter	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
LinkedIn	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
YouTube	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Netflix	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Spotify	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Apple	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Microsoft	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Amazon	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Google	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Facebook	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Twitter	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
LinkedIn	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
YouTube	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Netflix	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Spotify	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Apple	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Microsoft	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Amazon	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Google	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Facebook	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Twitter	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
LinkedIn	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
YouTube	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+	20
Netflix	16797	45.52	+	31	QJSHAN	39942	87.87	+						

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 55, low 42.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, high 53, low 42.

KADENA

Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 74, low 62.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 74, low 64.

SEoul

Tuesday: Sunny, high 40, low 28.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 50, low 34.

MANILA

Tuesday: Showers, high 85, low 73.
Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 75.

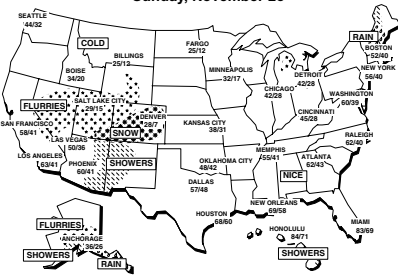
HAGATNA

Tuesday: Showers, high 85, low 77.
Wednesday: Showers, high 87, low 70.

Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	54/30	Los Angeles	70/52
Amarillo	55/32	Little Rock	63/49
Anchorage	36/29	Louisville	56/42
Asheville	52/29	Miami	77/66
Baltimore	48/31	Milwaukee	41/38
Birmingham	61/45	Nashville	59/42
Bismark	38/24	New York	46/38
Boise	43/29	Omaha	53/34
Boston	44/32	Orlando	69/53
Brownsville	83/62	Philadelphia	47/33
Buffalo	40/36	Phoenix	70/50
Burlington	37/25	Pittsburgh	42/36
Charleston, SC	57/38	Portland, OR	47/38
Charlotte	54/30	Portland, ME	38/19
Cleveland	43/35	Salt Lake City	44/30
Columbus, OH	45/37	St. Louis	57/44
Duluth	33/28	San Antonio	74/50
El Paso	65/38	San Diego	67/54
Hartford	43/27	San Juan	85/74
Helena	40/19	Tampa	69/55
Indianapolis	51/38	Tulsa	61/45
Jacksonville	63/44	Washington	49/34
Kansas City	55/38	Wichita	57/36

Sunday, November 28



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system will bring rain to many areas of New England Sunday. Another system will produce snow in many areas of the central and southern Rockies; showers will occur farther to the south and west. This storm will also generate showers in some parts of Texas and Oklahoma. The system will slowly move eastward Monday, spreading some snow into the central Great Plains. Further south, showers and thunderstorms are possible in eastern Texas and the Deep South. Rain may fall from the Tennessee Valley through the South into eastern Texas Tuesday. Another system could bring a shower to areas along the Oregon and northern California.

Sunday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	86/72	Iwakuni	60/45
Beijing	48/32	Kadena AB	74/62
Camp Casey	51/27	Kunsan AB	55/38
Christchurch	62/42	Kwajalein	86/78
Diego Garcia	87/78	Manila	87/73
Hagatna	87/77	Masawa AB	40/26
Hanoi	75/65	Osan	52/30
Hong Kong	75/65	Perth	78/51
Honolulu	84/71	Pusan	57/41

Sunday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/74	Budapest	43/35	Kabul	51/28	Nairobi	79/51
Athens	56/47	Buenos Aires	85/65	Kiev	28/24	New Delhi	81/52
Auckland	65/51	Cairo	67/48	Kuwait	66/41	Oslo	34/22
Baghdad	57/36	Caracas	81/70	London	46/35	Paris	41/28
Barbados	86/70	Cape Town	77/56	Madrid	57/45	Rio de Janeiro	82/66
Barcelona	57/45	Geneva	48/36	Mexico City	73/50	Rome	57/47
Berlin	42/33	Istanbul	54/42	Montreal	39/27	St. Petersburg	22/14
Bermuda	72/61	Jerusalem	67/43	Mogadishu	87/73	Stockholm	31/26
Brussels	42/30	Johannesburg	88/61	Moscow	22/9	Warsaw	38/29



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Oink! That's one big porky pig

BY ALAINA POTRIKUS

The Post-Standard of Syracuse

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Norm is a pig of prodigious proportions.

He weighs an estimated 1,600 pounds, stands 4-feet high and measures 7 feet from snout to tail.

His owner, Bob Peterson, of Hubbardville, Madison County, claims Norm may be the world's biggest pig. And the Yorkshire hog mix, isn't even 3 years old, yet.

"You've got to do some eating to put that much meat on in three years," said Peterson, who's been raising hogs for four years.

The retired state trooper from Connecticut moved to Hubbardville five years ago. He's been raising prize-winning cows, which average 1,250 pounds apiece, for 12 years. Named for the "Cheers" TV show character, Norm was one of Peterson's first pigs.

"Oh, my God, that's an absolutely enormous pig," said Heather Sweeney, a dairy and livestock specialist with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Oneida County. Sweeney said a 3-year-old pig normally would top out at 500 pounds.

Word of the enormous animal

has spread from farmer to farmer, and Peterson estimates at least 100 visitors have stopped by to take a look. "It's tough to get stuff done on the weekends," he said. "People keep coming."

A feed company salesman who stopped by the farm several weeks ago was flabbergasted at the sight of Norm. "He goes to the big pig farms in the West," Peterson said. "And he said he'd never seen a pig this size."

The largest pig on record is a Poland-China hog named Big Bill, who tipped the scales at 2,552 pounds just before he was put to sleep after suffering a broken leg en route to Chicago's World Fair for exhibition in 1933. Big Bill's shoulder height was 5 feet, and he was 9-feet long, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Swine come in all sizes — from the pygmy hog, which stands a foot tall at the shoulder and weighs an average of 13 pounds, to the giant forest hog, which can weigh up to 620 pounds. Domestic pigs can be much heavier, but Norm is an anomaly even within his own family: his brother, also



Norm, a 1,600-pound part-Yorkshire pig, is shown with owner Bob Peterson of Hubbardville, N.Y., in the barn at Peterson's Star Farm. Peterson thinks Norm may be the world's biggest living pig. Not even 3 years old, he is more than 7 feet long, 4½ feet high. "Norm just eats and sleeps," says Peterson.

nearly 3 years old, weighs about 500 pounds.

Farmers generally use a height and length formula to determine approximate weight of their pigs. Peterson tried that method on Norm. "It wouldn't fit either way around," he said of the measuring instrument. His next idea for weighing the creature involved putting Norm on a pickup truck

and driving it onto a feed scale. "We got (Norm) to the tailgate of the truck, and he turned around and looked at me," Peterson said. "Then he just started walking back to his pen. There wasn't much we could do after that."

So Peterson called an animal science professor for help. The educator offered another formula to estimate Norm's weight that in-

cluded measuring the pig's girth, length and height, resulting in the 1,600-pound estimate.

Peterson is hoping to borrow a portable scale from Morrisville State College to get an accurate weight. But he said he won't call them, or Guinness, for at least another six months.

"He'll get a little bit bigger," he said. "Come back in March."



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www.cfcoverseas.org

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Liberty Renegade



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Tickets

THIRD PRIZE
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Make a World of Difference

AM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — KANTO

EAGLE 810 Morning (Sun)
 7:05 Religious Programming
 9:00 Eagle 810 Sunday Brunch (Smooth Jazz)
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 6:00 A Prairie Home Companion
Evening
 6:00 Focus on the Family
 7:30 Travel Radio
 7:00 Dr. Laura
 8:00 Beale Street Caravan
 9:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 12:00 2-Rock (Alternative/Mon-Fri)
 12:00 Sports Overnight America
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live (Tue-Fri)
 6:00 NPR on the Media (Mon)
 5:00 NPR Live on Earth (Mon)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 Eagle 810 Morning Show (Contemporary Hits)
 7:00 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
 7:20 Pacific Report
 7:24 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story
 7:28 Eagle 810 News
 7:30 Zama Commander's Corner (Sat 1st Friday)
 Yokosuka Commander's Corner (2nd & 4th Friday)
 4:00 USAF Chiefs' Corner (3rd Friday)
 10:00 Retro Café (70s, 80s, 90s)
Afternoon
 12:00 Pacific Report
 12:07 Paul Harvey News and Commentary
 12:31 Air Force Radio News
 2:00 Top 40 Music
 3:00 Traffic Jamz (Current Chart Hits)
 4:00 Pacific Report
 4:47 AFN Sportspage
 5:12 Paul Harvey Rest of the Story
Evening
 6:00 from the Bench Live Sports (Wed)
 7:00 NPR's Morning Edition LIVE
 Yokosuka Commander's Corner (1st & 3rd Thursday)
 8:00 Rush Limbaugh
 9:00 The Touch (Urban) / Mon/Country / Tue/Pure Gold (Oldies) / Wed/rock / 40's / Classic Rock / Thu/The Touch (Urban/Fri)
 12:00 2-Rock (Alternative)
 12:00 Sports Overnight America
 4:00 NPR's Talk of the Nation Live
Morning (Sat)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered LIVE
 8:05 Car Talk
 12:00 Kim Komando
 10:00 Classic Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 4:00 2-Rock (Alternative)
Evening
 6:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 7:00 The Touch (Urban)
 8:00 2-Rock (Alternative)
 12:00 Sports Overnight America
 10:00 Adult Contemporary
POWER 1575 Morning (Sun)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered

8:00 Rush Limbaugh
 9:00 Parent's Journal
 10:00 Chef's Table
Afternoon
 11:00 Sports Overnight America
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 7:00 Hot AC
 10:00 The Touch (Urban)
 12:00 The Touch (Urban)
 2:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 6:00 Morning Az Strike
 6:30 Paul Harvey News
 7:10 Horoscope
 7:30 Inside Iwawaki Radio News
 8:30 Rest of the Letterman
 8:35 David Letterman/Leno
 9:00 Country Call Up
 10:00 Bright AC/Golden Oldies (Fri)
 11:00 Urban Assault
Afternoon
 1:00 2-Rock (Oldies Oldies) (Fri)
 2:00 The Afterburner
 2:30 Inside Iwawaki Radio News
 2:34 Rest of the Story
 2:36 Pacific Report
 3:25 Paul Harvey News
 3:40 AFN Sportspage
 4:00 Departure Time
Evening
 6:00 NPR's Fresh Air
 7:00 The Touch Show (Mon/Old School / Thu/The Mosh Pit / Fri)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 3:00 Country
Morning (Sat)
 6:00 Pure Gold (Oldies)
 10:00 Soundbinder
Afternoon
 2:00 Rick Dees' Weekly Top 40
Evening
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered
 7:00 The Jim Rome Show
 8:00 The Touch
 10:00 2-Rock
 5:00 Hot Jazz

JAPAN — MISAWA

THE EDGE — AM 1575 Morning (Sun)
 12:00 2-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Hot AC
 6:00 Sam Donaldson
 7:00 Religious
 9:00 Oldies
 10:00 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 AC Country
 9:00 Adult Rock
Evening
 6:00 Prairie Home
 7:00 2-Rock (Alternative)
Morning (Mon-Thu)
 12:00 2-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Sports Overnite America
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh

6:00 Matt in the Morning
 9:00 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 Classic Rock
 3:00 Edge Afternoon Radio
Evening
 6:00 Country
 8:00 R&B
 10:00 Hot AC
Morning (Fri)
 12:00 2-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Sports Overnite America
 5:00 Rush Limbaugh
 6:00 Matt in the Morning
 9:00 Flashback
 11:00 Hot AC
Afternoon
 12:00 Classic Rock
 3:00 Edge Afternoon Radio
 4:00 The Line
 3:00 That Country Show
Evening
 6:00 Classic Rock
 8:00 R&B
 10:00 Hot AC
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 2-Rock
 2:00 Classic Rock
 4:00 Hot AC
 6:00 Oldies
 8:00 Car Talk
 9:00 Saturday Retro
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees
 3:00 Australia Music
 5:00 Kim Komando
 12:00 Top 40
Evening
 6:00 Jim Rome
 7:00 2-Rock
 9:00 Hot AC

JAPAN — SASABO

THUNDER RADIO 1575 Morning (Sunday)
 12:00 2-Rock
 4:00 Soft Hits
 12:00 Religious Programming
 10:00 Focus on the Family
 10:00 The Environmental Show
 11:00 Sports Traveler
Afternoon
 12:00 Sports Overnight America
 4:00 Top 40
Evening
 6:00 American Country Countdown
 8:00 Oldies Radio
 9:00 2-Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 Soft Hits
 3:00 Oldies
 6:00 Rush Limbaugh
 6:00 Morning Drive
 9:00 Adult Rock
Afternoon
 12:00 "The Jam" with Nikki V. (Mon, Wed and Fri)
 12:00 Urban Music (Tue and Thu)
 12:00 "The Rush"
 12:00 Adult Rock
 6:00 Classic Rock
 9:00 Top 40

Morning (Saturday)
 12:00 Top 40
 4:00 Classic Rock
 6:00 All Things Considered
 8:00 Best of Our Knowledge
 9:00 Oldies
 10:00 Car Talk
 11:00 DJ Top 40 Show (live)
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees American Top 40
 4:00 Nuestra Musica
 5:00 Country
Evening
 8:00 Urban

KOREA

Thunder AM Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR Weekly Edition
 7:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 12:00 Australia Musica
Afternoon
 12:00 Oldies Radio
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 6:00 NPR Car Talk
 7:00 Prairie Home Companion
 8:00 NPR Week Edition Sunday
 11:00 Country
Morning (Mon)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 This Week with Sam & Kokie
 8:00 Oldies Radio
 12:00 Noon Report
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 3:00 Jim Rome Show
Evening
 6:00 Evening Report
 6:35 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 10:00 Country
 11:00 Sports
 7:00 Morning Report
 7:30 NPR Market Place
 8:00 Oldies Radio
Afternoon
 12:00 Religious
 12:35 News & Views
 1:00 Dr. Laura
 2:00 Country
 3:00 Jim Rome Show
 6:00 Evening Report
 6:35 Sports Byline
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition
 10:00 Country
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Country
 5:00 NPR All Things Considered
 7:00 Oldies Radio
Afternoon

12:00 Country
 4:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 6:00 Country
 7:00 Rush Limbaugh
 8:00 Country
 9:00 National Public Radio

OKINAWA

SURF 648 AM Morning (Sunday)
 7:00 Adult Rock (cont.)
Afternoon
 2:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
 4:00 Adult Rock
 7:00 Ben Mailer & Jason Smith — Sports (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
Morning (Mon)
 7:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 11:00 Jim Lamley (live) Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 Steve Schlinger
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 2:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 7:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country
 1:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (live)
 2:00 Country
Morning (Tue-Thu)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Adult Rock
 11:00 FOX Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 2:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country
 1:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (live)
Morning (Fri)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 8:00 Country
 11:00 FOX Sports
Afternoon
 12:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 1:00 The Dr. Laura Show (recorded)
 1:45 Paul Harvey
 2:00 Country
 4:00 The Rush Limbaugh Show (recorded)
 5:00 Sports Overnight America
Evening
 8:00 NPR's Morning Edition (live)
 11:00 Country
Morning (Sat)
 6:00 NPR's All Things Considered (live)
 10:00 Adult Rock
 12:00 The Jim Rome Show (recorded)
 1:00 Adult Rock
 3:00 Sports Overnight America (live)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Rock
 (Note: The Schedule is subject to change due to sports schedules.)

FM WEEKLY RADIO

JAPAN — YOKOTA

FM CABLE RADIO SERVICES (On Base Only)
 2-Rock (Alternative) 90.3 FM
 Eagle 810 (Variety) 90.7 FM
 National Public Radio (NPR) 91.1 FM
 Bright AC (Pop) 91.7 FM
 Adult Rock (Classic Rock) 92.3 FM
 The Touch (Urban) 92.7 FM
 Country 93.3 FM
 Pure Gold (Oldies) 93.7 FM
 Hot AC (Today's Hits) 94.3 FM
National Public Radio
Morning (Sun)
 6:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 8:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 11:00 Piano Jazz
Afternoon
 12:00 Beethoven Network
 1:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 2:00 Dialogue
 2:30 Uncommon Knowledge
 3:00 The WFTM Jazz Network
 5:00 Jazz Profiles
Evening
 6:00 What, What Don't Tell Me
 7:00 A Prairie Home Companion
 9:00 Weekend Edition Sunday
 11:00 Justice Talking
 12:00 Fresh Air Weekend
 1:00 This American Life
 2:00 Live Show with Harry Shearer
 3:00 on the Media
 4:00 Newsweek Radio
 5:00 Weekly Edition

Morning (Mon)
 6:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 8:00 The WFTM Beethoven Network
 12:00 Car Talk
 1:00 Weekend All Things Considered
 2:00 Fresh Air Weekend
 3:00 The WFTM Jazz Network
Evening
 6:00 Morning Edition
 11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in)
 12:00 Connection (call in)
 1:00 Fresh Air
 2:00 Wait, What Don't Tell Me
 3:00 Talk of the Nation (call in)
 5:00 All Things Considered
Morning (Tue-Fri)
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Marketplace
 8:30 Says You (Tue) Latino USA (Wed)
 Living on Earth (Thu) Uncommon Knowledge (Fri) Revised (Sat)
 9:00 The WFTM Beethoven Network
Afternoon
 1:00 All Things Considered
 3:00 The WFTM Jazz Network
Evening
 6:00 Morning Edition
 11:00 The Diane Rehm Show (call in)
 12:00 The Connection (call in)
 1:00 Fresh Air
 2:00 Wait, What Don't Tell Me (Tue) Dialogue (Wed) Radio (Thu) Car Talk (Fri) Dialogue/Uncommon Knowledge (Sat)
 3:00 Talk of the Nation (call in)
 5:00 All Things Considered
Morning (Sat)
 7:00 The World
 8:00 Marketplace
 8:30 Revised
 9:00 The WFTM Beethoven Network

Afternoon
 1:00 All Things Considered
 3:00 The WFTM Jazz Network
 5:00 WFTM Jazz
Evening
 6:00 Thistle & Shamrock
 7:00 Weekly Edition
 8:00 Revised
 8:30 Says You
 9:00 Weekend Edition Saturday
 10:00 Revised
 11:00 Beale Street Caravan
 1:00 Weekend Edition Saturday
 3:00 Hot Jazz Saturday Night
 5:00 National Press Club

KOREA

EAGLE FM Morning (Sun)
 12:00 2-Rock
 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 8:00 Christian Contemporary
 9:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 10:00 Saturday Night 8's
Afternoon
 12:00 Bob Kingley's Country Countdown
 4:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
Evening
 9:00 2-Rock
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 2-Rock
 5:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Ulsan, Busan, Taegu and Gyeongsang)
 10:00 Live Local Show (Seoul, Taegu and Gyeongsang)
Afternoon
 1:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 3:00 Live Local Show (Korea-wide)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Rock

8:00 Urban Adult Contemporary
 9:00 Adult Rock
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 2-Rock
 5:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 8:00 Saturday Morning Wake-up (Korea-wide)
Afternoon
 12:00 Bright Adult Contemporary
 4:00 Adult Rock
 9:00 Adult Rock

OKINAWA

FM — WAVE 88.1 Morning (Sun)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Afternoon
 12:00 American Country Countdown
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)
Morning (Mon-Fri)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 5:00 Morning Show (live)
 9:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
 11:00 Wave Break (live)
Afternoon
 1:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Evening
 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Morning (Sat)
 12:00 Adult Rock
 4:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
 5:00 Morning Show (live)
 11:00 Adult Contemporary (Bright AC)
Afternoon
 12:00 Rick Dees Weekly Top 40
 4:00 Adult Rock
Evening
 6:00 Adult Contemporary (Hot AC)

AM RADIO SPORTS AND SPECIALS

OKINAWA

SUN, NOV. 28
 1:00 PM College Football: Virginia Cavaliers at Virginia Tech Hokies
 2:00 PM College Football: Notre Dame Fighting Irish at USC Trojans
MON, NOV. 29
 12:00 NFL Football: Jacksonville Jaguars at Minnesota Vikings
 1:00 PM NFL Football: Baltimore Ravens at New England Patriots
 2:00 PM NFL Football: Sunday Night Football — Oakland Raiders at Denver Broncos
TUE, NOV. 30
 11:00 PM Football: Monday Night Football — St. Louis Rams at Green Bay Packers

KOREA

SUN, NOV. 28
 1:00 PM College Football: Virginia Cavaliers at Virginia Tech Hokies
 2:00 PM College Football: Notre Dame Fighting Irish at USC Trojans
MON, NOV. 29
 12:00 NFL Football: Jacksonville Jaguars at Minnesota Vikings
 1:00 PM NFL Football: Baltimore Ravens at New England Patriots
 2:00 PM NFL Football: Sunday Night Football — Oakland Raiders at Denver Broncos
TUE, NOV. 30
 11:00 PM Football: Monday Night Football — St. Louis Rams at Green Bay Packers
WED, DEC. 1
 12:00 PM Toronto Raptors at Miami Heat

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Robinson scores early and late as Huskies top Utes

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Nate ANCHORAGE helped stake No. 22 Washington to a big lead early Thursday night against Utah, then helped save off an upset.

Robinson scored 29 points, including eight in the final five minutes, and the Huskies beat Utah 78-71 in the quarterfinals of the Great Alaska Shootout.

After the Utes tied it 66-66 with 2:50 left, the Huskies scored nine straight points to take control. Robinson, held to two points for nearly 15 minutes of the second half, hit three big baskets down the stretch.

Utah's Andrew Bogut, a 7-foot center who's a member of Australia's national team, scored 23 points, including 19 in the second half as the Utes erased an 11-point deficit. He also led the Utes with 12 rebounds.

Brandon Roy added 25 points for Washington (2-0), which will face Oklahoma in the semifinals Friday night. The Sooners beat High Point 93-65.

Robinson hit his first five three-point attempts en route to 19 first-half points. He was also part of a suffocating defense that forced three turnovers and two second violations in the first five minutes as Washington charged to a 16-3 lead. Utah (1-1) got off just six shots in the first eight minutes.

Utah coach Ray Giacometti said the Utes tried to duplicate Washington's pressure in practice this week, but "you just can't unless you face it."

Huskie coach Lorenzo Romar knew coming in that the Utes like to dictate a deliberate offensive pace.

"Our only hope tonight was to try and pressure them as much as we could and not allow them to

just move the ball around the horn at will against us," Romar said.

Behind six points by Justin Hawkins, the Utes used a 10-0 run to close within 21-19 midway through the first half.

After a timeout, Roy hit a reverse layup and Robinson took three-pointers to push the lead back to double digits.

In the second half, Utah chipped away at the lead and twice tied it, the last at 66-66 with 2:50 remaining. Robinson answered with a 12-foot jumper and then with a drive through the post.

Romar said when Robinson was younger, he would have just kept shooting after missing shots early in the second half. On Thursday, the coach added, Robinson showed patience.

"He played within himself, but then down the stretch when we needed a bucket he turned it on again," Romar said. "And great players are able to do that. He picked his spots and when there were openings he was able to come through for us. He made big baskets."

Romar was relieved to escape with a win.

"That's a good basketball team. We're talking about one of the top one or two big men in the country in Bogut," Romar said. "Once he got going in the second half, I thought we were able to see what he was capable of doing — and that's without a whole lot of touches."

Oklahoma 93, High Point 65: Kevin Bookout had 15 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma (2-0) and Drew Lavender added 14 points and seven assists.

The Sooners held High Point (1-1) without a basket for nearly five minutes during a 12-1 run to open the second half that made it 53-28.

Titus Byrd had 16 points for High Point.



Washington's Mike Jensen collides with Utah defender Jonas Langvad (51) while getting off a pass during the first half of Thursday night's quarterfinal in the Great Alaska Shootout. No. 22 Washington beat the Utes 78-71.

Women

No. 4 Texas 74, No. 1 Tennessee 59: At Austin, Texas, Tiffany Jackson had 19 points, nine rebounds and a career-high eight blocks in a dominating effort for the Longhorns (2-1).

"Whenever you see Tennessee, you want to bring your best game," Jackson said.

Since snapping a 13-game losing streak to Tennessee in 2002, the Longhorns have won four straight over the Lady Vols.

The 15-point margin is the largest during the winning streak and came against a Tennessee team (3-1) that opened at No. 1 for the 11th time in school history.

Texas extended its home winning streak to 38 games, longest in the nation, and ended a seven-game losing skid to top-ranked teams. Texas hadn't beaten a No. 1 team since knocking off Tennessee in 1987.

And unless something changes with a chance meeting in the post-season, Texas' six seniors will finish their careers with a perfect record against the Lady Vols.

"I think it's always fun against Tennessee," senior guard Jaime Carey said. "I think we've established a nice little rivalry with them."

The rivalry pits the winningest coaches in the women's game: Tennessee's Pat Summitt (824) and Texas' Jody Conradt (819) rank 1-2 in victories.

Olowokandi arrest leads to suspension

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Minnesota Timberwolves center Mike Olowokandi was arrested early Thursday after police used a stun gun to subdue him when he refused to leave a club.

Olowokandi, 29, was taken into custody about 3 a.m. after he refused to leave Tiki Bob's, Indianapolis police spokesman Sgt. Stephen Slatkovich said.

The player was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal trespassing, both misdemeanors, Slatkovich said.

The center was suspended by the team for Thursday night's game against Indiana for "conduct detrimental to the team," Timberwolves general manager Jim Stack said in a statement.

Slatkovich said the club's manager asked police, who were investigating another call, to help him get the 7-foot Olowokandi to leave. The player refused, and police shocked him twice with a stun gun until he complied and then took him into custody.

IOC recommends expulsion for Bulgarian official

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The IOC recommended Friday that Bulgaria's top Olympic official be expelled from the organization for unethical conduct.

Iran Slavkov has been suspended from the IOC since Aug. 7 after being implicated in a BBC television investigation into alleged corruption in the bid city process. IOC president Jacques Rogge said the executive board found Slavkov has "not abided by the Olympic charter and he has tarnished the image of the International Olympic Committee."

"There is zero tolerance for unethical behavior in the IOC and today's decision reinforces this position," Rogge said.

The executive board acted on the recommendation of the IOC ethics commission. A final decision goes to the full IOC general assembly, which meets in July in Singapore. A two-thirds vote of the 100-plus members is required for expulsion.

Slavkov was secretly filmed by an undercover crew discussing how votes could be bought in the race for the 2012 Summer Olympics. He contends he never knew it was a setup and played along to expose what he thought was a real attempt to corrupt the process.

Sports briefs

The 64-year-old Slavkov, president of Bulgaria's national Olympic committee and an IOC member since 1987, is taking legal action against the BBC for using "illegal means of surveillance."

St. John's imposes penalties over NCAA violations

NEW YORK — St. John's imposed two years' of penalties on its men's basketball program Friday after an investigation revealed a former player was given cash by an athletic department employee.

The penalties, which include a postseason ban for this season and the loss of a scholarship this season and next, were imposed after an investigation into the charges earlier this year by former player Abe Keita.

Keita, one of six players suspended from the program in February over a curfew-breaking visit to a Pittsburgh-area strip club, made the charges of being paid a month later.

He said he was given \$300 each month by a member of the basketball staff.

Poutainen edges Paerson in Aspen giant slalom

ASPEN, Colo. — Finland's Tanja Poutainen captured her second World Cup victory, charging down the hill on the second run to edge Sweden's Anja Paerson by .09 seconds in a World Cup giant slalom on Friday.

Second to Croatia's Janica Kostelic by .6 seconds after the first run, Poutainen finished two runs in 2 minutes, 12.49 seconds in the only World Cup stage in the U.S. for women.

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Palko leads Pitt upset in Backyard Brawl

Panthers rally to knock off No. 21 Mountaineers

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — He won a game at Notre Dame that appeared lost in the fourth quarter. He won a game against rival West Virginia that appeared lost in the fourth quarter. With every game, Tyler Palko keeps taking the Pitt Panthers farther than they ever expected to go.

Now, after yet another comeback, Palko seems ready to take the Panthers (7-3, 4-2 Big East) when haven't gone in 22 seasons: a New Year's Day bowl game.

"This is a huge step for us," offensive tackle Rob Pettit said of Pittsburgh's 16-13 Backyard Brawl upset of No. 21 West Virginia on Thursday night.

"We're sick of people saying we're not good ... of saying we can't win big games. I remember when the season started, and we were like No. 70 in the country. Nobody thought we could do this."

Tyler Palko did.

He convinced the Panthers they could win at Notre Dame for the first time in 18 years, and he led two scoring drives in the final 3 minutes of the 41-38 upset victory on Nov. 13. He convinced the Panthers they could win Thursday night, even when they hadn't scored a touchdown all night and needed to drive nearly 75 yards in the closing minutes to do so.

"That's what I kept hearing when they gave me the keys to this bus — we need a quarterback who can win big games," the sophomore said, referring to Pitt's recent history of failing against its

big rivals and ranked opponents. "I expect to win big games."

Because Pitt suddenly can win such games, the team that barely beat Division I-AA Furman and Big East weakling Temple appears headed to the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1, possibly against Florida State.

And if Syracuse should upset Big East leader Boston College on Saturday, the Panthers would likely wind up with the conference's guaranteed BCS bowl bid and a Fiesta Bowl date against Utah.

Last year, the Panthers finished 8-5 and lost to West Virginia and Notre Dame despite having Heisman Trophy runner-up Larry Fitzgerald. Maybe Fitzgerald needed Tyler Palko, who has thrown for 1,159 yards and 11 touchdowns in his past four games.

"Ever since I've been here, it seems we come up short (in the fourth quarter)," Pettit said. "Tyler Palko won't let us do that. He expects us to win, and he's just great to have in the huddle. He's a great leader."

Palko, the son of one of Pittsburgh's top high school coaches, was only 14 of 38 for 165 yards and an interception but was nearly perfect while leading the decisive 73-yard drive. He completed four consecutive passes on third downs before scoring the go-ahead touchdown on a 2-yard rollout with 4:06 remaining.

The Mountaineers (8-3, 4-2) had a chance to win until quarterback Rasheed Marshall, who ran for 104 yards and passed for 145 — threw incomplete on

fourth and 6 from the Pitt 33 with 42 seconds remaining. The play before, wide receiver Dwayne Thompson just missed completing a flea flicker pass into the end zone to Marshall that H.B. Blades might have tipped.

"It was a play we put in this week," said Marshall, who was without his top receiver, the suspended Chris Henry. "I had my hands on it and I felt it should have been a score."

The Mountaineers also felt it should have been a win, but special teams mistakes doomed them just as they did when Boston College returned two punts for touchdowns in a 36-17 upset in Morgantown on Nov. 13.

Brad Cooper missed two of four field-goal tries, Pitt Brady averaged only 29.3 yards on four punts and the Mountaineers twice drew penalties for running into Pitt punter Adam Grassle among their 89 penalty yards.

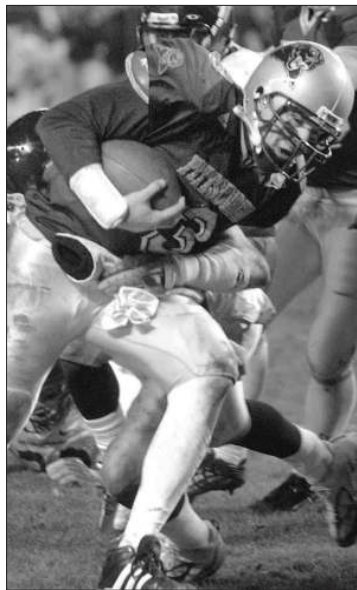
"They didn't play well enough to beat us. Every time we got an advantage, we hurt ourselves," West Virginia cornerback Adam Jones said. "This one hurts really bad."

West Virginia also caught a bad break when Lee appeared to trap one of his three third-down receptions on the decisive drive, only to be awarded the catch.

Now, instead of the Fiesta or Gator Bowl, the Mountaineers might have to settle for the Insight Bowl.

"This season is not a total loss," coach Rich Rodriguez said.

"We've won eight games this year, but it's very disappointing because we felt we had opportunities to win had we played better."



Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko (3) scores the game-winning touchdown as he drags West Virginia linebacker Adam Lehnort into the end zone during the fourth quarter of Pittsburgh's 16-13 win on Thursday.

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Branching out with Deion

Patriots' passing game becomes more dangerous with Branch back

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — For seven straight games, Tom Brady would drop back, look for a receiver and not see one of his favorites, Deion Branch.

That changed last Monday night when the New England Patriots' dangerous combination reconnected as Branch returned from a knee injury.

"He's just a tremendous player," Brady said. "Deion ran some great routes and whenever I saw him I tried to get him the ball."

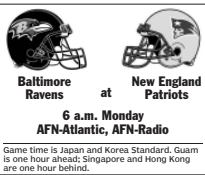
He did that six times for 105 yards in Monday's 27-19 victory at Kansas City. One short completion turned into a 26-yard touchdown when Branch made the catch on the left side, cut across the field and eluded several defenders.

Not bad for his first game in two months. "I felt a little rusty in practice," Branch said. "I think once the game started I was so emotionally high, I think the main thing, I just wanted to go out and help my teammates."

It probably won't be as easy in his next game Sunday against the Baltimore Ravens, who have allowed the fewest points in the NFL and have the third-best pass defense, featuring defensive backs Ed Reed and Chris McAlister.

"I don't think it gets any easier," Branch said. "It's the best defense in the league by far, great linebackers, the secondary is good."

The Patriots did well without Branch, going 6-1. David Givens stepped in as the



Game time is Japan and Korea Standard. Guam is one hour ahead; Singapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind.

primary receiver and caught 33 passes in the seven games. But Branch provides Brady with another talented target and frees up wide receiver Troy Brown to spend more time filling in at cornerback, where starters Ty Law and Tyrone Poole have been sidelined.

"Deion's a great player," Brown said. "He worked hard to get back to where he is. I saw the guy rehabbing and working out and getting himself ready."

Branch had 43 catches as a rookie in 2002 after being drafted in the second round out of Louisville. Last season, he led the Patriots with 57 catches and added 10 more, including the first touchdown, in the 32-29 Super Bowl victory over Carolina.

He started this season with seven receptions and a touchdown in an opening-game victory over Indianapolis. But in the Patriots' next game at Arizona, he made just one catch before being hurt on the last play of the first half.

He was pursuing linebacker James Darling, who was returning an interception. Guard Stephen Neal was behind Branch and fell into him when blocked from behind by defensive tackle Darnell Dockett.

Branch didn't play again until last Monday.

"You forget how special he is catching the ball and running after the catch," tight end Christian Fauria said. "It's like he never missed a game. He came back in and made a bunch of huge plays for us."

Branch was frustrated that he was in the training room trying to get healthy while his teammates were practicing. He didn't even travel to all the road games.

But he wanted to make sure he was completely ready before getting back on the field with Brady.

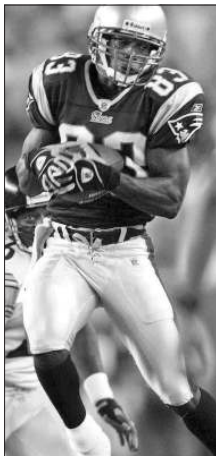
"I don't think you can contribute and help your team get better being out there 50 to 75 percent (healthy)," Branch said. "You can hurt yourself by doing that, as well."

Brady was in his third season, and second as a starter, when Branch joined the Patriots. It didn't take long for that combination to click.

"We're getting better and learning each other a whole lot more being that we work so hard in the offseason during minicamp and training camp," Branch said. "The comfort level is great. We can only get better."

As long as Branch can avoid injury.

"We always like everyone healthy, but the reality of the NFL is you just don't get that very often," Brady said. "So you really need to take advantage when you do get them."



New England's Deion Branch made an auspicious return from the injured list with six receptions for 105 yards and a touchdown last week against the Kansas City Chiefs. On Sunday, he'll go against perhaps the toughest defense in the NFL when the Patriots play the Baltimore Ravens.

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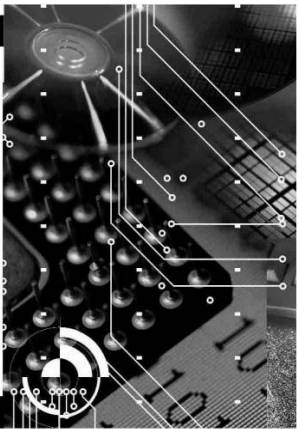


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SPORTS



Sideline most of the season,
WR Branch is catching on
again with the Patriots, Page 46

Records, not rings, within reach



With six touchdown passes Thursday at Detroit, Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) seems a clinch to break the season record for TD passes.

Peyton's place in history might hinge on Colts' problematic postseason woes

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

Peyton Manning had barely made it to the locker room, and already the talking heads on the network NFL shows were debating his place in history.

Two of them had more than a passing interest in what will almost certainly become the greatest one season passing display by an NFL quarterback.

Analysis

Dan Marino watched as Manning threw six touchdowns in less than three quarters, breaking one of his records in the process. Barring a broken right arm, he's also a lock to erase the record of 48 touchdown passes in a season Marino set in 1984.

"I thought 48 was something no one would touch or get close to," Marino said.

Marino has held the record for 20 years, but

Most TD passes
in a season

Dan Marino, Mia. '84 ...48
Dan Marino, Mia. '86 ...44
P. Manning, Ind. '04 ...41
Kurt Warner, STL. '99 ...41
Brett Favre, G.B. '96 ...39

Manning needs just eight touchdown passes in his next five games to take it away.

Unlike Marino, Terry Bradshaw owns something no one can take away — four Super Bowl rings. Marino may be the career passing yardage leader with 61,361 yards, but he got to the big game only once — in his second season — and never won in 17 years.

Statistics are great to settle bar bets, and they're a good way to fill up record books. But great players are remembered by how much they won, and Marino's legacy will always be tarnished by the fact he never won the big one.

Bradshaw did, so allow him some slack for bragging about it on Thanksgiving Day.

"My passing rating? It was four Super Bowls," Bradshaw said.

Manning hopes to someday be able to make a similar claim for himself. He's already won an MVP award and figures to win another this year unless he and the Indianapolis Colts collapse in the final month of the season.

But right now Manning has more in common with Marino than he has with Bradshaw. He's easily the most talented quarterback in the league — not to mention the highest paid — but he's in his seventh year and hasn't sniffed a Super Bowl yet.

Before last year, in fact, Manning hadn't even won a playoff game.

Manning knows that as well as anyone. As unappreciable as he was on the field Thursday, he became just as flustered afterward when asked about setting an NFL record with at

SEE RECORDS ON PAGE 47



Henson struggles
before being
pulled; Jones
carries Cowboys
to victory

Page 47



Led by Palko,
Pittsburgh wins
the Backyard
Brawl and keeps
alive BCS hopes

Page 44



Fourth-ranked
Texas takes down
top-ranked
Lady Vols

Page 42

Grizzlies coach steps down because of health issues Page 45

